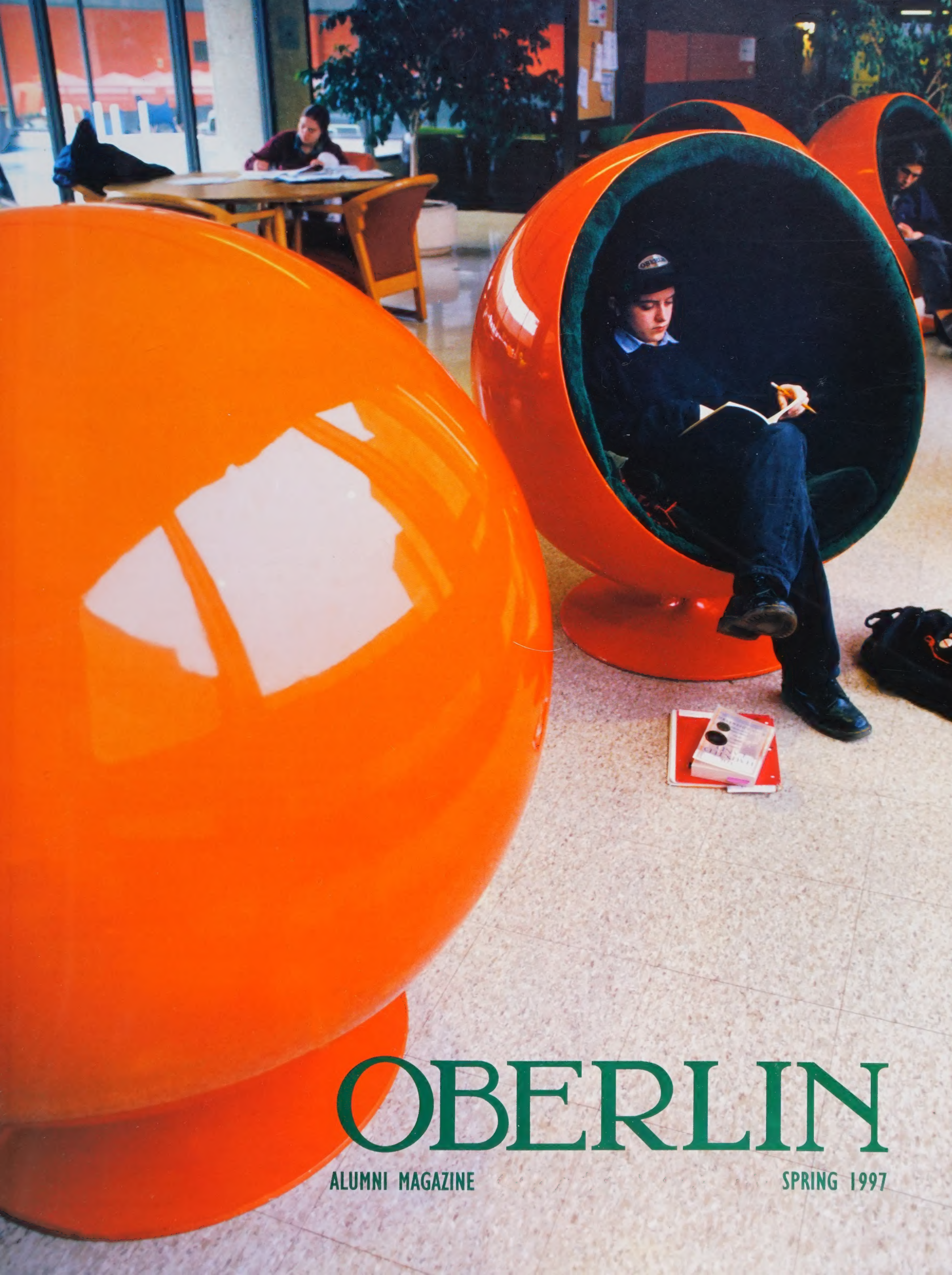




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ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 1997

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—Shannon Hall '97



Senior politics major Shannon Hall has done community-service work for Lorain County's Rape Crisis Center and Grass Roots Leadership Development Program. Her efforts have been supported by the College's Center for Service and Learning, which was established with an unrestricted gift to Oberlin. She plans to pursue a degree in law after graduating this May.

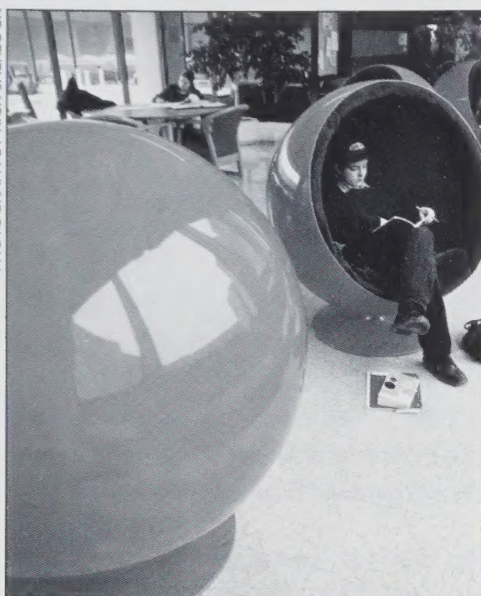


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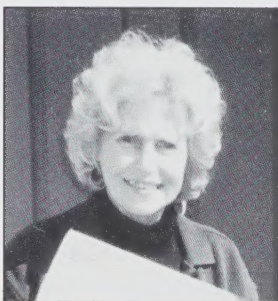
The all-encompassing womb chairs on the fourth floor of Mudd library provide an island of serenity for students coping with midterm exams. The chairs, designed by Stendig, are placed four to a floor at the glass entrance walls, and make a colorful splash of tangerine, green, or yellow when seen from the outside. Installed in the library in 1974, they have sheltered hundreds of students through many intense study sessions—and an occasional nap.

OBERLIN

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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FEATURES



8 *Think One Person Can Change the World?*

Marianne Liberatore '48 led Connecticut's South Shore Music Festival in the adoption of Bosnia's Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra, successfully engineering replacement and repair of the many instruments destroyed or damaged by four devastating years of war—and now plans a musical peace corps to teach young musicians performance skills.

BY MAVIS CLARK

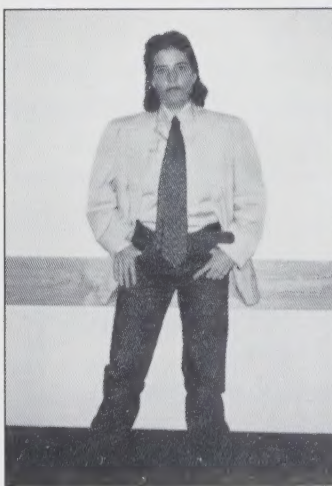
12 *How Inner-City Kids Taught This Counselor Survival Tactics*

A summer spent counseling inner-city youngsters at a bare-bones New Jersey camp is a revelation for a student who thought she knew exactly what to expect. The campers discovered how to tie sneakers, brush teeth, and survive a challenging overnight trek; Foshay learned patience and humility.

BY ELENA FOSHAY '98

15 *Reflections from Kunming*

A young, black Shansi rep in China finds her best defense is humor as her Chinese teachers, classmates, and almost everyone else she meets in Kunming reveal some very puzzling attitudes about African Americans.



BY ALEXIS COLLINS '94



18 *King for a Day*

After agreeing to participate in an all-day, cross-dressing experiment with several female colleagues, an English professor learns that it's not only clothes that make the man—sitting, standing, walking, and smiling all had to be relearned.

BY LESLIE LAWRENCE '72

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3 Letters

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4 Around Tappan Square

Students learn how the world works; Environmental Studies Center gets a \$3 million gift; Peter & the Wolf come to Warner; Koppes is once and future dean.

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Alumni Association Tours

*See the world
with Oberlin experts as your guides*

LONDON THEATER STUDY TOUR • June 7–21, 1997

Escorted by Professors of English David Young and David Walker '72

Spend two weeks studying the ongoing relationship between dramatic literature and performance in the British theater. Our group of 22 will attend about 10 productions and morning classes at Oberlin's London headquarters on Fitzroy Square, which is within walking distance of the Scala House, where we'll be staying in three-person flats. The trip includes welcome and farewell dinners, theater tickets, and a visit to Stratford's new Globe Theater. Participants make their own arrangements for airfare, transportation within London, sightseeing, and meals.

ICELAND • August 5–14, 1997

Escorted by Professor of Geology Steven Wojtal

A natural-history adventure that includes excursions to Reykjavík, Gullfoss waterfall, Strokkur Geyser, Thingvellir (the geological fault separating North America and Europe), and the village of Heimaey, which was partially buried by a 1973 volcanic eruption. We'll drive along Iceland's southern coast—a broad expanse of glacial debris, lakes, and lonely beaches of black volcanic ash—to Jökulsárlón, where icebergs calve into a deep glacial lake. We'll visit the 18th-century Norwegian and Danish house of Akureyri, the capital of north Iceland, and the nearby Godafoss waterfall and Lake Myvatn lava fields. Optional polar flight to Grimsey Island and optional excursion to the southern tip of Greenland, August 14–20.

CHINA: THE SILK ROAD • September 30–October 16, 1997

Escorted by Shansi Association Director Carl Jacobson

We'll spend three days in Beijing before exploring the Silk Road. Includes visits to Urumqi, Kashgar, Turpan, Dunhuang, Shanghai, and the Mogao Caves, Xian, where the famous terra-cotta warriors were unearthed. Optional three-day Hong Kong tour.

AMONG THE GREAT WHALES:

BAHA CALIFORNIA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ • January 18–26, 1998

Escorted by Assistant Professor of Geology Keith Meldahl

Professor Meldahl has done extensive research in the area around the Sea of Cortez—home of the great whales, exceptional marine and bird life, and desert landscapes. Join him in exploring the islands and banks of this region aboard the 70-passenger *MV Sea Bird*. Experts in local bird and sea life will also be on board as we explore by Zodiac small craft the many uninhabited islands, such as Isla Los Islotes and Espiritu Santo, with their fascinating cacti and bird life (also good for snorkeling and beach barbecues); the Gorda Banks, a gathering place for whales and dolphins; the popular resort town of Cabo San Lucas; Bahia Magdalena, the main breeding and calving area for the California gray whale; and San Carlos/La Paz.

Other upcoming tours

Syria and Jordan • April 1998

Ireland • June 2–July 4, 1998

Oaxaca, Mexico • October 1998

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Letters

War Stories

Thanks to Jim Sunshine '49 for his beautifully written article, "Tis Not the Dying . . ." in the fall-winter 1996 issue of the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*. Even half a century later, the stories of those young men still hurt. I never knew any of the 75, but he made them very real.

JOANNE WILDER DAVIS '48
Wayland, Massachusetts

Many thanks to you and Jim Sunshine for the story "Tis Not the Dying . . ." It was especially gratifying to read about Lt. Howard Frank '42, who had been business manager of the *Oberlin Review* and who died fighting a fire aboard the U.S.S. *Intrepid*. I benefited from the scholarship that Lt. Frank's family established to honor him. I would not have attended Oberlin College had I not received that full-tuition award.

We who entered Oberlin College in 1946 were fortunate to have quite a few classmates who had survived their armed forces' service. Somehow they helped us be more serious about the educational opportunities we had, and sometimes they offered useful advice and gave us the benefit of their wisdom and broadened perspectives.

After WWII, Oberlin students continued to meet their responsibilities as U.S. citizens. I was drafted into the U.S. Army after graduating in 1950 and lived through two years as a soldier, clerk, parachutist, and airman, an experience that contributed much to my later endeavors as a physician, professor, and medical scientist.

TED DOEGE '50
Hinsdale, Illinois

A Curious Solecism

Jim Sunshine's commemoration of representative—and some extraordinary—Oberlin casualties of the Second World War was most affecting to one who knew most of them.

WE WELCOME LETTERS FROM OUR READERS.

Include your name, class year, address, and a daytime phone and send them to: "Letters," Oberlin Alumni Magazine, 50 W. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074. E-mail: alummag@ocvxc.cc.oberlin.edu

Letters may be selected and edited for reasons of clarity and length.

The printed roster contains, however, a curious solecism that I hope will not appear on the memorial itself—the phrase "and Reserve" appended to the respective branch of the service in each case.

Any individual serviceman belonged either to the United States Army (USA) (the regular "old" army) or to the Army of the United States (AUS)—draftees, temporarily commissioned officers, etc. During the war no soldier was designated a Reservist.

Similarly, one was a member either of the regular United States Navy (USN) or of the Naval Reserve (USNR), of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), or the USMCR. Never both.

Incidentally, some of those listed as Air Force died when it was still the Air Corps.

Even half a century later, the stories of those young men still hurt.

Of the 75 lost Oberlin men, presumably no more than one or two were USA, USN, or USMC. Almost all were AUS, USNR, or USMCR. We owe it to them to get it right.

ROWLAND BERTHOFF '42
St. Louis, Missouri

Editor's note: Mr. Berthoff speaks for a number of alumni who have written and called on this very subject. We apologize for the confusion caused by the "curious solecism" that appeared in our pages; rest assured that it will not appear on the memorial. The name of each casualty will be followed by his degree and class year; however, the branch of service in which each man was enlisted will be indicated by the appropriate abbreviation: AUS (army), RCAF (Canadian air force), USAAF (air force), USMC (marines), USMS (maritime service), or USN (navy).

Fountain Tribute Memories

Having read Karen Shaefer's accounts of the Fountain tribute concert and the music-education reunion, I am prompted to thank

the hard-working arrangers for providing the opportunity for the weekend's many touching moments.

It was a shock, though, to find no one else from the Class of 1958 in attendance. Where were all those folks who beat me out of a spot in the choir? Where were those fellow music ed-ers who sat with me through Professor Fountain's conducting class? And where were those who should realize that Robert Shaw is a national treasure and that their chances of working with him are diminishing?

Getting home through the now famous Cleveland storm was tough, but the weekend was a memorable experience and I'm sorry my classmates missed it.

MARY KREMER-HARTTRICK '58
Grand Island, New York

Remembering Barry McGill

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Professor of History Barry McGill ["Losses in the Oberlin Family," Fall-Winter 1996 OAM]. I hope this letter will convey how meaningful an influence he had on my life and career.

As a Marshall Fellow, Professor McGill had the opportunity to study both at Yale and Oxford Universities. Consequently, his teaching style was decidedly old school. In the late 1980s, when I was an Oberlin undergrad, I had encountered very few educational experiences quite like his courses.

On the surface, his surveys of English history, with their in-depth lectures and high academic standards, appeared to be characterized by his seeming aloofness. Eventually I got to know Professor McGill better, having declared a history major and deciding on graduate work in English history, and I found the veneer of old-school aloofness to be inaccurate. During a private reading, I had the pleasure of spending many afternoons with him, one on one. During these meetings he would often relate experiences from his days at Oxford, or we would discuss topics in English history and my plans for graduate school.

My experiences with Professor McGill formed the foundation of my master's thesis (which I dedicated to him), and I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to

(continued on page 43)

Oberlin 2020 Teams Hold Town Meetings

The College's long-range planning process, begun last fall, is identifying the basic principles and priorities that will guide Oberlin's decision-making over the next quarter century.

The most recent phase of the process was a series of town meetings held by 14 planning teams in early March. The

Oberlin
2020
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

teams (which include faculty, staff, students, trustees, and alumni) had been organized around topics that emerged from last fall's focus groups as the most important for consideration by members of the College community.

Students, staff, faculty, as well as trustees and alumni on campus for the day moved freely among the meeting rooms in Peters Hall, contributing wide-ranging perspectives on the issues earlier identified as most critical to examine for preparation for

the year 2020. Those topics are:

- Educational Priorities and the Curriculum
- Building the Artistic Community for the Future
- Building the Science Community of the Future
- The Community Beyond the Campus
- Building the Faculty of the Future
- Oberlin and the International Community
- Sports and Oberlin's Future
- Supporting Student Initiative and Associational Activities
- Oberlin and Educational Access
- Oberlin and New Educational and Informational Technologies
- Learning and Living in a Diverse Community
- The Residential College Experience
- Exploring Possibilities for Interdisciplinary Education
- Campus Space and the Oberlin Community

Attendance at each session ranged

from a few to more than 50 participants, and President Nancy S. Dye said, "I think they went very well. The ones I went to were very substantive."

The planning teams will continue their work in March and April, and capture their thinking in brief summaries. Their reports will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee and used to create the set of long-range priorities for Oberlin. To develop further campus-wide understanding of and commitment to the broad, recommended directions, the long-range priorities will be discussed on campus this spring and reviewed with the trustees in June.

"This has been an open, interesting, and exciting process, involving all members of the College community in critical discussions about Oberlin's future," comments Danette DiBiasio Wineberg '68, president of the Alumni Association and member of the Advisory Committee.

"I Really Liked the Way You Conduced"

PETER AND THE WOLF, as most kids know, belong in the musical tale which has enchanted generations since Prokofiev composed the opus.

THE MAD FACTORY is a nonprofit group offering young people opportunities for cultural expression—including a chance to dance onstage.

SHAWN CHAROD '97, a vocal-performance major, was astonished to find himself suddenly conducting a 28-piece orchestra of his peers.

NANCY ROTH '58 is a professional dancer, who taught the children creative dance movements for their interpretive-dance roles.

They all came together when Sharon Anderson, MAD's director, and her husband, Richard Anderson, professor of singing at the conservatory, initiated a 1996-97 Winter Term project that engaged MAD Factory kids and Conservatory of Music students.

The proposal to dance with the orchestra was scary for most of the children, who had never been close to some of the instruments before. Intently watching a conservatory student open a bassoon case, one disappointed youngster cried, "Oh, look! It's broke!" After 10 rehearsals, the youngsters had learned to readily identify each instrument and were blissfully confident of their performance skills, as they became creatures of

the woodlands, moving to the music between narrative portions read by Richard Anderson.

Shawn Charod, trained as a singer, learned new skills, too. He discovered that the clothes he wore made a difference—the white baton showed up best against solid black—and that conductors require specific techniques and a sustained air of friendly command. One of the most rewarding moments came when he opened this fan letter from a tiny member of the MAD group: "Dear Shaum, I really liked the way you conduced. I liked the way you moved your hands. Was it hard to memorize all those motions?"

In retrospect, Shawn says, "No, not at all, not at all."

—MC

PHOTOGRAPH BY TANYA ROSEN '97





Ronald Takaki Delivers Spring Convocation Address Multiculturalism as an Intellectual Endeavor

What will Oberlin students need to thrive in the 21st century? In his February 4 Finney Chapel address, "The Crucible of the Culture Wars," Ronald Takaki, a University of California at Berkeley professor of ethnic studies, discussed why, now more than ever, educated people must have a more accurate understanding of our nation's history.

Takaki espouses an intellectual approach to the study of America's racial and cultural diversity. The author of eight books, including *Iron Curtain: Race and Culture in Nineteenth Century America* and *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*, he has explored how the Western concepts of democracy and equality have become American; "how excluded groups claimed those principles and made them more."

Takaki acknowledged that multiculturalism in the classroom has its opponents, and is often dismissed as identity politics. "There is a narrow ethnic nationalism that can be restrictive and problematic," he admitted, although he believes such pitfalls can be avoided by encouraging students to study ethnicities other

than their own, and to incorporate what they learn into a larger context.

Reviving the All-campus Convocation

Professor Takaki's visit to campus was the second in the all-campus convocation series. Initiated by President Nancy S. Dye last fall with Cornel West's September visit, the series is designed to "bring our community together to discuss a topic of common concern, a shared conversation about important issues of the day," she says.

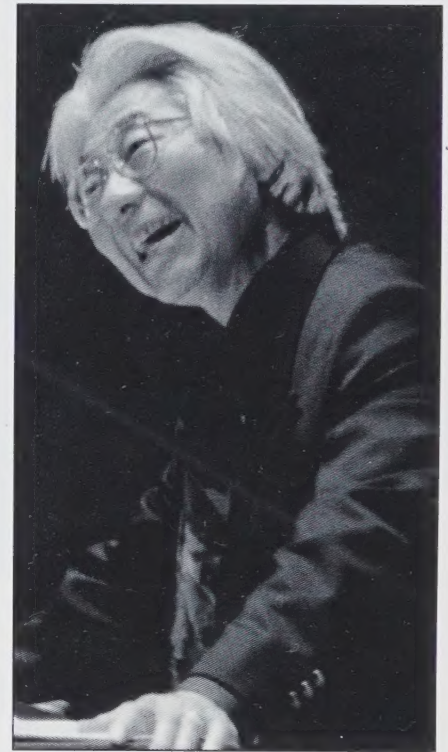
The West and Takaki visits involved more than an hour-long speech followed by a question-and-answer session. Copies of their books were distributed on campus, and forums were organized for faculty and students to discuss the issues they presented. Takaki spent two days on campus, during which he met with faculty in a mini workshop, Expanding the Multicultural Curriculum.

Convocations "are great for unifying the campus around a particular event," says Assistant Dean Shilpa Davé of the Division of Student Life & Service's Multicultural Resource

Center (MRC), but it's important to maintain that unity. The MRC organized a series of discussions focusing on particular chapters of *A Different Mirror*, with faculty leading the discussions.

"I hope to see this series become an integral part of campus life," says Dye. "Many alumni have told me how important convocations have been in the past. We are trying to recreate a sense of Oberlin as an intellectual and artistic community."

Benson Tong, visiting associate professor of history, also hopes the convocations will be integrated into campus life. "We must find bridges between different disciplines," he says. "We can never become complacent about the state of our teaching and scholarship; we must devise a means through which we can create a synthetic understanding of the past, present, and future."
—CN



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN MATNEY '99

Ethnic identity is not fixed, but is constantly shaped by time and experience, says Ronald Takaki. We must learn to see ourselves and others as more than our ethnicities.

\$3 Million Gift Ensures Construction of Oberlin's Green Building

Oberlin's Environmental Studies Center (ESC) came another step closer to realization when Cleveland philanthropist Adam Lewis recently donated \$3 million to the project.

Designed by William McDonough, whom *Time* magazine has called one of the most visionary green architects, the ESC will create space for the Environmental Studies Program and provide a model for ecological design and education in the next century. Construction will begin

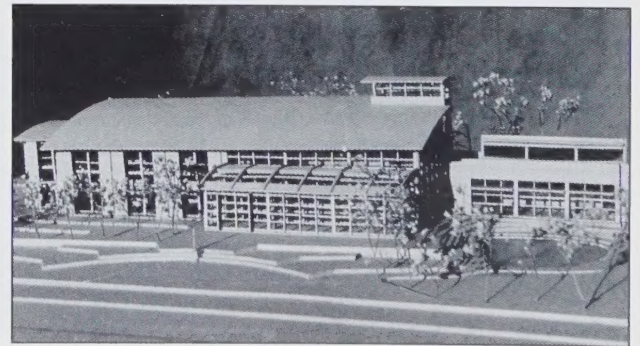
this summer, and the center will be ready for occupancy in fall 1998.

The interdisciplinary venture's benefits will extend far beyond the program. "The project will squeeze as much pedagogical value as possible out of a 14,000 square-foot building," says Professor of Environmental Studies David Orr. "I hope it has the effect of increasing our understanding of how things are connected."

"If we are to make the transition to a sustainable and decent future in a world of 10 to 12 billion people in the

next 50 years, the size of the human footprint must be reduced by 50 to 90 percent," he

says, "requiring broad changes in our ideas, perceptions, and values, making it, in large part, a challenge to educational institutions."



Basketball Teams Make Conference Tournament

For the first time in five years, Oberlin's basketball teams advanced to the North Coast Athletic Conference's (NCAC) post-season tournament, an achievement that says more about the teams' future than their season records of 4-21 and 3-21, respectively. Going to the tournament "gave us a great sense of accomplish-

ment," says women's head coach Ann Gilbert '91, a sentiment her counterpart on the men's team, Miguel Curl '86, shares. enthusiasm and discipline as on improving technical skills. "Our athletes are leaving this program with the ability to be self-disciplined and team members," says Curl.

Gilbert and Curl have realized the benefits of those principles in their own lives. Both cite the College's academic standards as the reason they transferred to Oberlin—Gilbert from Ohio University and Curl from Triton College—and both were stand-out athletes during their student days. Twice named NCAC Player of the Year, Gilbert set 24 school and 10 conference records and twice received NCAA Division III first-team All-American honors. During

his senior year Curl led the team in assists and steals and was the team's third-leading scorer.

The coaches' optimism seems to have rubbed off. The Yeomen beat conference rival Earlham to gain a spot in the tournament, where they were knocked out of competition by conference powerhouse Wittenberg. Sophomore John Norris earned second-team All-NCAC honors.

The Yeowomen were defeated in tournament play by the top-seeded Kenyon team, but honorable-mention selections Ikea Hillman and Monica Bush were two of only three first-years who made the women's teams in conference voting.

They've sampled success; now they want victory. "We've seen what's out there, now we want to take over," first-year Yeowoman Chamia Peterson told the *Oberlin Review*.

—ADAM SHOEMAKER '96

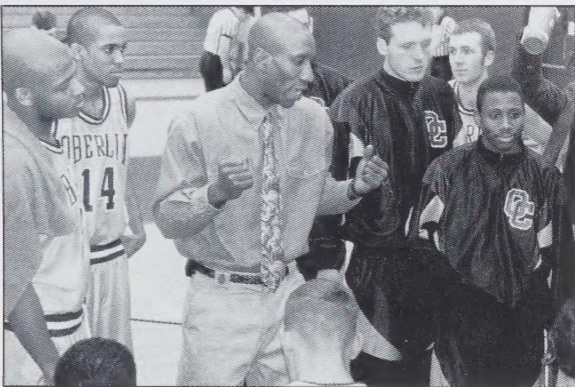
Office of Communications Intern

The Once and Future Dean

The Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of Clayton R. Koppes as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

A professor of history and, since last July, acting dean, Koppes' knowledge of the College's many disciplines and their needs has earned him the trust of faculty and students, says President Nancy S. Dye, expressing confidence that he "will be a great dean for Oberlin."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TANYA ROSEN '97



"When you coach where you went to school, the effort seems to be more personal, more heartfelt," says Miguel Curl (center).

"... we should now expect to get into the tournament and not have to come down to the last game needing a win," he says.

Knowing the importance of positive attitude, Curl and Gilbert have concentrated as much on boosting



Ann Gilbert (center) believes her team is ready "to start winning games and become more competitive."

A Match Made In Oberlin

Oberlin junior Laura Franks and James Castro, executive director of north-central Ohio's Second Harvest Food Bank, have plenty to smile about. Each year the organization makes a two-million-pound local dent in the nation's estimated 40 billion pounds of discarded food. And, thanks to the efforts of Franks and her fellow volunteers—junior Joshua Singer and sophomore Erin Claflin—the College's dining services are helping the food bank feed the area's hungry with weekly donations of surplus food from the campus dining halls.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SHERLOCK



Oberlin has been interested in making excess food available for some time, but lacked an effective means of distribution, says David Jensen, director of campus dining services. Franks, Singer, and Claflin brought the two organizations together last December.

One of 188 food banks across the country, Second Harvest collects prepared and perishable foods from donors and delivers them to 125 area organizations that operate soup kitchens, day-care centers, rehab programs, centers for the elderly, Head Start programs, and shelters, helping nourish about 30,000 people each month.

—CN



Do You Know How the World Works?

Why are acorns pointed? How do toilets work? What is nothingness?

Give up? Stephen Wong, visiting professor of physics, says the problem is that you haven't slowed down and explored the ideas and concepts the question involves. Last semester, in his class *How the World Works*, Wong coached Oberlin students to shift their focus from "knowing" answers to learning how to generate them.

"We did this by practicing to ask precise, clear questions about the things we didn't understand," says Wong. "Then we practiced learning how to make educated guesses using logical deductions, well defined definitions, simplified models of the processes, and prior knowledge."

Students posed four questions each week about things happening around them they didn't understand and attempted to answer the ques-

tions by using only their own reasoning, observations, and memory of past learning. Wong selected one question for further research, and students submitted a second paper comparing their guesses with the researched answers. They also gave class presentations, evaluating their classmates for, among other qualities, enthusiasm and fun.

The professor centered the writing-intensive class on four themes—conservation laws, energy transport, wave motion, and the language of science. "The goal of the course," says Wong, "was to realize that there is a big, wonderful universe out there, and that if we ask the right questions and apply solid reasoning skills, it is within all our grasps."

"On an everyday and life-changing level, the class has made me look at the world differently," says freshman Arish Dastur. What Wong taught

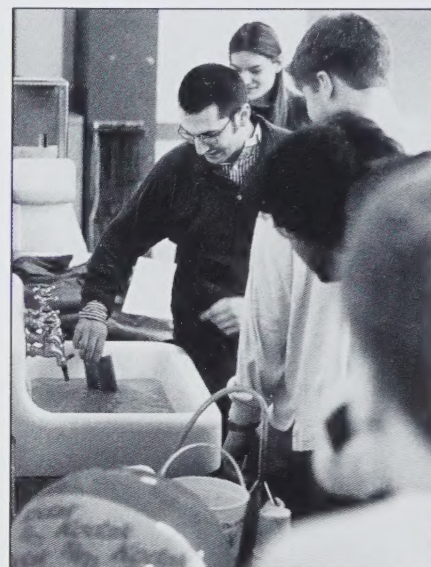
him, he says, is how to come to a conclusion without a presumption.

Wong admits to influence from his father, the late Edward Wong, Oberlin professor of mathematics from 1957 to 1988. "He never gave me a straight answer," says the younger Wong, laughing. "I learned about caring from my father. Every student to him was important."

To learn more about *How the World Works*, go to the URL: <http://wong.physics.oberlin.edu/courses/p60syll.htm> or e-mail Professor Wong at:

Stephen.Wong@oberlin.edu.

—LINDA GRASHOFF
Editor, *The Observer*



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEVIERD

Sophomore Samuel Spitzer, taking part in an investigation of fluid resistance, looks as if he gave his classmate an A for fun.

Hall of Fame's Class of 1997 To Be Inducted

On May 23 the College's John Heisman Club will induct five new members into the Oberlin College Athletic Hall of Fame: Anthony Osei '78, Ronald Stevenson '83, Bernadette Delgado '84, Sarah Cox Marshall '87, and George Bundy Smith Jr. '87.

Soccer player **Anthony Osei** received All-Conference honors three times and was thrice named to the All-Ohio Soccer Team and twice to the All-Midwestern team. He also ran track, setting a College indoor long-jump record of 24' 4.5" that holds today.

Ronald Stevenson made football history in 1982 as the first Yeoman named All-American. The first Oberlin football player to rush for 1000 yards in a single season, he set numerous College and Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) records, including

career rushing yardage of 2,513. He was OAC's 1979 number one running back, and a 1983 Little All-America Honorable Mention.

If you want to attend or would like more information, call or write: Margaret Sahs Erikson '62, director of on-campus alumni activities, 50 W. Lorain St., Bosworth 105, Oberlin, OH 44074. (216) 775-8692. E-mail: alumoffc@ais.alumdev.oberlin.edu

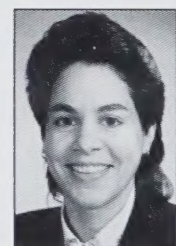
Bernadette Delgado earned seven varsity letters on the volleyball and the lacrosse teams. A Regional All-American and National Lacrosse Team member in 1984, she was on the United States Women's Lacrosse Association's All-American first team in 1985, when she also earned All-NCAC and All-American honors.

One of the most talented distance runners in Oberlin's history, **Sarah Cox Marshall** competed in cross country and track all four years at Oberlin, and qualified three times for national competition in both sports. Competing in cross-country championships, she earned second place in 1983, ninth in 1984, third in 1985,

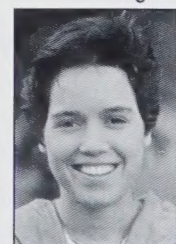
and fourth in 1986, achieving All-NCAC status each year. In track and field, Sarah won the conference championship in the 1985 2-mile run, qualified for the NCAA's 3K in 1985, and claimed a second conference championship—in the 5K—in 1987. In 1993 the NCAC appointed her to its All-Decade cross-country team.

A leader in indoor and outdoor track, **George Bundy Smith Jr.** set eight College records. Among those that still stand are his 6.59 in the 60-yard indoor event and 10.84 in the outdoor 100-meter event. George was also a member of the 400- and 1600-meter relay teams that earned All-NCAC status.

—MELISSA SPILMAN '00



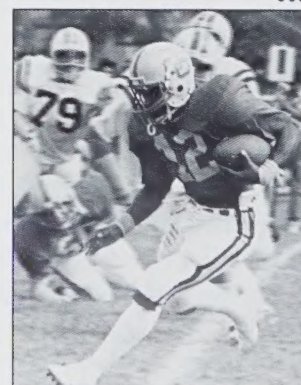
Delgado



Marshall



Smith



Stevenson

Think One Person Can Change the World?

The Sarajevo Philharmonic in Bosnia Does

After four years of increasing concern about the plight of the people of Bosnia, Marianne Liberatore last spring rallied Connecticut's South Shore Music Festival, a violin maker, the good townspeople of Fairfield and Westport, an abbey of nuns in Farfa, Italy, the Yamaha Corporation, and dozens of others to assist in restoring the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra. This is her story.

By Mavis Clark

AS SHE WAS FEELING MOST HELPLESS

about making a difference for the people of once-beautiful Sarajevo, and especially for the musicians there, Marianne Liberatore '48 heard a National Public Radio account of the wartime travails of the Sarajevo Philharmonica and their brave efforts to restart their musical lives. As president and program director of the South Shore Summer Music Festival, she was determined to explore what she and the group could do, and began her dedicated quest for ways to support the orchestra.

When NPR provided the phone number for the orchestra, Marianne's first move was to telephone the orchestra director and first clarinetist, Emir Nuhanovic, to express her desire to help. His letter, in reply, was a heart-breaker:

Dear Mrs. Liberatore and friends from the South Shore Music Festival,

The past four years were very difficult, and had a devastating effect on our orchestra as well as on the whole city of Sarajevo. Looking back, it seems impossible to live here, not to speak of per-



forming concerts. However, in spite of the extreme conditions, musicians continued to play . . . Music helped the people of Sarajevo to stay sane, to have more strength to endure all the hardships, to forget for the moment what is happening to their city and to them. The Hall was never so full before the war as it was during it. Audience didn't care for the cold or the bombing of the city. It didn't matter that they would sit in coats trembling just like the musicians, music was what mattered.

The performances were in cold halls with temperature below zero, with candles as the only light. People from the audience used to hold candles on the concerts so that the musicians could see music parts.

On one occasion mortar shell hit the building of the National Theater just 30 feet from the window of the rehearsing room, but musicians continued rehearsals and they performed that concert with Barbara Hendricks as a soloist. That time nobody was hurt, but unfortunately during the war, seven of them were killed and 12 wounded.

We lost a lot of instruments that burned down in a fire caused by the bomb. Some of them are destroyed and damaged by shrapnells. We also lost scores and orchestra parts. Some musicians



left Sarajevo so we included students and retired musicians with the only goal that Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra must not stop its activity . . . We are proud to say that Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra performed over 40 concerts with 20 repeat concerts. Maybe if there was more music, this war would never happened.

We still have a lot of difficulties. We need instruments, scores, we need funds for the work, but we are determined that Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra must continue to work and with the help of friends we can go on.

Thank you for your kind offer to help us. Perhaps music and culture can finally change the minds of people and somehow make the wars stop.

Sincerely,
Emir Nuhanovic, Director

THE LETTER WAS ACCOMPANIED by a list of instruments most urgently needed—"a Clarinet in Si, a Clarinet in La, a Yamaha Piccolo Flute in Do, an Oboe, Fagots [bassoons] and

The Sarajevo Orchestra was founded in 1927 and entered a long reputation throughout Eastern Europe. Noticing that so many instruments for the war its ranks were greatly depleted in the course of the conflict. Throughout the war, these musicians continued performing, giving concerts in the National Theatre of Sarajevo which was continuously packed with people wanting music as much as food.

a Loree English horn." With the shopping list in hand, Marianne and the South Shore group began the daunting task of not only locating the instruments, but finding a way to pay for them.

The Yamaha Corporation responded to their appeal by promptly and generously contributing a clarinet in A. South Shore's board of directors swiftly appropriated funds from their very modest treasury to purchase the clarinet in B-flat. Marianne contacted Dorothy Darlington, a professional oboist in New York City, for her ideas for locating an oboe, and Dorothy put together a subscription program with Barbara Newington and the Benedictine Grange of West Redding, Connecticut, resulting in the purchase of a fine Rigoutat



Workshop in residence from the orchestra. Phillip Injeian installs a new bridge for a cello at his concert workshop by Europa Hall.

there by maestro Charles Ansbacher, a guest conductor of the Sarajevo Philharmonica.

Three down, and now, only the piccolo, the English horn, and the bassoon to go—or so it seemed. Within only a few months, South Shore raised the funds and acquired the Loree English horn, the bassoon, a silver flute, three fine bows for stringed instruments, and a specially commissioned orchestral score featuring the new instruments.

MARIANNE HAD DISCOVERED that the entire string section's instruments were in deplorable condition. Some needed replacement, and all needed restoration and repair. Where would the money come from? The "Save the Sarajevo Strings" campaign, an outgrowth of the "Woodwinds for Sarajevo" project, was immediately initiated.

The Italian government had invited the Sarajevans to be the orchestra-in-residence for the Farfa Giubileo Festival in the abbey town of Farfa for the last two weeks of August 1996. Phillip Injeian, owner of the New York Violin Shop and member of South Shore's advisory council, flew to Italy at the group's expense to join the orchestra and restore the strings. The orchestra members, along with Injeian and Marianne, were housed in a mountain-top convent, home to an order of Franciscan nuns who had taken a perpetual vow of silence. Because so much zestful music emerged at all hours from Injeian's workshop as he and the musicians sampled the results of his painstaking efforts, the nuns wordlessly indicated that the group must pack up and move to an outbuilding further away from the area where the nuns were trying to conduct their noiseless worship.

In just two weeks, working day and night, and sometimes all night long, Injeian singlehandedly restored every violin, viola, cello and double bass—and all the bows. Marianne watched with fascination as he patched and restored everything: new strings, bridges, soundposts, pegs, planing of the finger boards, and total restoration of the cases. One of his tasks was restoring the case of a cello that had been shattered by a sniper's bullet. When the cellist discovered her instrument repaired and polished, she turned to Injeian and said, "But I can't pay you for this." He assured her that there was no charge for his work; that the cello had saved her life, and now he had

oboe for the Sarajevans.

The three instruments were delivered to the orchestra by a rather circuitous route—Marianne took them along to Vienna during a South Shore "musical odyssey" to Europe, and personally presented them at the American ambassador's Viennese residence March 8, 1996. They were ceremoniously received

International Musical Peace Corps?

Marianne Liberatore has devised a plan for a musical peace corps, beginning with the Sarajevo Orchestra, but not necessarily limited to only this project.

Her first appeal for help reads this way: "The orchestra must continue to be an important unifying symbol of the city and of its culture and civility, but it now needs help in the form of a 'musical peace corps.' Wanted are the following:

- *A young, but experienced, conductor to join the orchestra for a year to lead and train the musicians with a regular schedule of rigorous rehearsals.*
- *A string quartet of highly skilled players to join the orchestra for a year as first chair players in their respective sections, to show string*

leadership, and to give regular lessons to players within each section.

- *A skilled oboist to sign up for a year as a performer, and to give lessons in oboe, English horn, and bassoon."*

If funding can be found, she is certain the musicians can be found. Several prospective musicians have already contacted her. One gentleman said, "I would be interested in the musical experience more than the money—the reaching out and sharing with the orchestra I would look upon as doing some good in my life."

Marianne welcomes all applications, ideas, and proposals. If anyone can help, call or write her at the South Shore Summer Music Festival, P.O. Box 403, Westport, CT 06881. Phone: (203) 227-7153. Fax: (203) 454-3682.

—MC



Stefan and Marianne Liberatore, standing in the New York City Public Library, with the famous French violinist, and the famous French violinist, personally selected and equipped the instrument before its presentation.

saved the cello's. She promptly dissolved in tears of joy.

On October 4, 1996, a benefit featuring Romanian-born virtuoso violinist Sergui Schwartz was staged by South Shore. With the \$22,000

raised by the concert a fine French violin (Georges Cunault 1908) and bow were presented to the orchestra in November. The remainder of the funds was used to engage Schwartz this past March. He traveled to Sarejevo where he was the orchestra's featured soloist at the XIII International Sarajevo Winter Festival's concluding concert, and stayed on to work with the musicians, preparing for their very first CD recording.

TODAY THE ONCE-PROUD orchestra is a chamber ensemble of about 45 musicians, some of whom who live outside the city and travel a considerable distance to play scheduled concert engagements. Many former orchestra members permanently fled the capital during the war, and many of their chairs are now occupied by young and inexperienced musicians. Among the biographies of performers the director sent to Marianne was this one from bassoonist Rasko Zivkovic:

Born in 1966 in Sarajevo. My background is working class. Nobody in my family was a musician except for one distant ancestor who earned 20 square kilometres of land playing on violin. I am working with music since I know of myself. Once I had seen one show on TV about bassoon, and I liked that instrument. Bassoon is very interesting and has a peculiar color of tone. I performed on it during my studies and I especially remember I once received a chocolate from one composer for playing his composition so good. Unfortunately since I have no means to buy bassoon I was not able to study bassoon class on music Academy so I was on class for composition. During the war Mr. Emir Nohanvic gave me a chance to play in Sarajevo Philharmonics and he provide me with instrument and place to rehearse. Since then I play in orchestra. My wish is to play first bassoon but I lack in technical skill in long arias. My instrument is also very weak and ruined almost unusable. However my wish is to continue to play and also to be excellent in it.

What so captured Marianne's ardent attention? Why have so many people in so many countries responded so enthusiastically to the needs of this valiant orchestra? The reason may be that the orchestra's perseverance throughout the war, performing in the midst of chaos and deprivation, provided a beacon of hope—or, perhaps that the orchestra is seen as a living example of returning civility in the region, with Croats, Serbs, and Hungarians—Muslims, Jews, and and Christians—all harmoniously and earnestly working and playing together. □

All photographs courtesy of Marianne Liberatore

Woman with a Mission

Marianne van Hoorn Liberatore '48 has demonstrated her remarkable abilities for organization and leadership throughout her professional career, as a buyer for R. H. Macy's, as head of her own executive search firm, as director of special projects for Save The Children Federation, and as a guest lecturer in marketing and merchandising. A resident of Westport, Conn., Marianne is also an accomplished sailor. She is president and program director of Connecticut's South Shore Music Festival, a nonprofit organization which, since the 1930s, has been a pioneer in showcasing the talents of young musicians at the start of their careers. Concerts are recorded and played over the regional National Public Radio affiliate, and are often rebroadcast on nationwide NPR. Marianne's successful efforts to restore the Sarajevan orchestra have led to several recent interviews on national CNN-TV, and National Public Radio, extolling her remarkable accomplishments. —MC



Marianne Liberatore, president and program director of South Shore Summer Music Festival, receiving the shipment of a piccolo from Yamaha, one of several instruments South Shore sent to the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra.

How Inner-city Kids Taught this Counselor Survival Tactics

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ELENA FOSHAY



Oberlin College junior Elena Foshay was drawn to Trail Blazers' century-old commitment to teaching children responsibility, cooperation, and respect for others and the environment.

All my life I've wanted to help children know love, happiness, and pride, so that when they grew older they might realize their own dreams and help others do the same. Last summer I had the opportunity to find out if I could actually do it—to finally stop talking and start doing.

By Elena Foshay '98

There they were; two summer job opportunities, both offering the kind of challenge I'd always wanted, working with children. Both came from camps for the underprivileged. At one, I'd make good money teaching art eight hours a day. At the other, I'd be paid less to live primitively, helping to plan my group's programs and spending 24 hours a day with my young charges.

I chose the second; the one that traded salary for a challenging and what's proven to be an unforgettable experience.

The offer was from Trail Blazers, a New Jersey camp that offers a supportive, educational environment in a natural setting to children from the inner-cities in the New York area. Everyone at Trail Blazers lives in what is called a smallcamp, a group of eight campers and two or three counselors, situated far enough apart to function independently.

The thought of Trail Blazers' primitive camping didn't worry me—I've camped that way before with my family. And a few years earlier I had been a volunteer counselor at a Girl Scout camp. After two weeks of training that included tips on successful counseling and a little child psychology, urban sociology, and behavior management, I was eager to get started. Then I learned I and two others—Brendan and Gary—would be supervising the youngest boys. My only previous experience had been with girls, and I was surprised, and apprehensive, to have been assigned a group of boys.

Gary and Brendan had been as nervous as I, but we soon found we had much in common, and we quickly became friends. Our working relationship, however, took a bit of effort on all our parts, but eventually we worked things out. Trail Blazers expects coworkers to display a successful relationship—one of the program's most unique and important aspects—to teach our

The experience had brought out unexpected and less-than-ideal sides in us. We were exhausted, and worse, we were beginning to doubt our abilities and our decisions to be counselors.

Almost every shelter and piece of furniture in Trail Blazers' smallcamps are built by campers and counselors. The kitchen of Elena's camp (right) consisted of the fire scar and rudimentary preparation and cleaning areas.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ELENA FOSHAY

charges about communication and cooperation—and to make each day go smoothly. We spent our first three days discussing counseling philosophies and high ideals. We *knew* we would be patient, loving, and fun, teaching the kids all about the environment and camping.

Then they arrived and all our plans went out the window. Our group was nothing like the well-behaved, enthusiastic one we expected. We didn't have the patience to be fun and loving after spending most of our time breaking up fights and helping the kids control their behavior long enough to sit through a meal or activity. Instead of teaching how to chop wood and paddle a canoe, we tied shoes, helped them make their beds and brush their teeth, and comforted the homesick. By the end of the week, we were exhausted, and worse, we were beginning to doubt our abilities and our decisions to be counselors.

The experience had brought out unexpected and less-than-ideal sides in us. But instead of giving up, we resolved to avoid impatience and frustration with better planning and more realistic goals for the next three-week-long session.

When the second session began, we were more prepared for the campers' strong and changeable moods. Many were like Joe*, a sweet, creative 8-year-old, who knew no other way to deal with anger or any negative emotion than to hit things with a stick. The children's city lives were frequently chaotic, so we worked on establishing routines and clear expectations: walking into the dining hall quietly, waiting until everyone had been served before eating, and passing cups and plates so that their contents wouldn't spill.

Every child had a job to do within the smallcamp, such as cooking, fire building, or dish-washing—and every smallcamp had a job to do for the community, such as cleaning the community latrines, feeding the two donkeys, or tending the organic garden. Joe was one of the most articulate about declaring the pride he felt in being given responsibilities and in knowing how to live outdoors, but all them were growing more confident.

Halfway through the three-week session, the smallcamps embark on separate Vagabonds, backpacking trips during which campers put their new-found skills to use. We planned an overnight trip to a small cabin on the other side of the lake, mapping a course that took us the long way around on a hike several hours long; we would boat back the following day. The experience proved to be the summer's zenith for our group. When we arrived at the cabin, the kids were visibly proud of themselves. They'd used what they learned to complete a trip that would have been impossible three weeks earlier, and they experienced the thrill of achieving a difficult task. The trip brought us closer together, and during the last half of the session we truly functioned as a family.

As for me, despite my early doubt, the experience validated my lifelong dream. I had met the challenge I set for myself, but I also learned a lot about what I can do, and some about what I can't. And I felt the intense joy of helping some wonderful youngsters discover their potential and gain self-esteem and confidence.

I still receive letters from Joe. He went to Trail Blazers' holiday party in December, and returned to the camp for Winter Weekend. He tells me he plans to return to camp this summer and about how excited he is. I am, too. I'll see him there. □

ELENA FOSHAY, a sociology and women's studies major from Naperville, Illinois, has continued working with children through College service-learning programs since classes resumed in August. During fall semester she participated in Students for Students, a latch-key program for Oberlin elementary-school children. This semester she is volunteering her time as a tutor in Oberlin's Prospect Elementary School.

* Not his real name.

A Legacy in Need

Founded more than a century ago, Trail Blazers' campgrounds are located atop a thickly wooded ridge in the hills of northwestern New Jersey. Every summer the program offers about 350 youths, aged 8 to 18, the opportunity to escape the inner city for the pristine wilderness. Campers' families are charged only what they can afford.

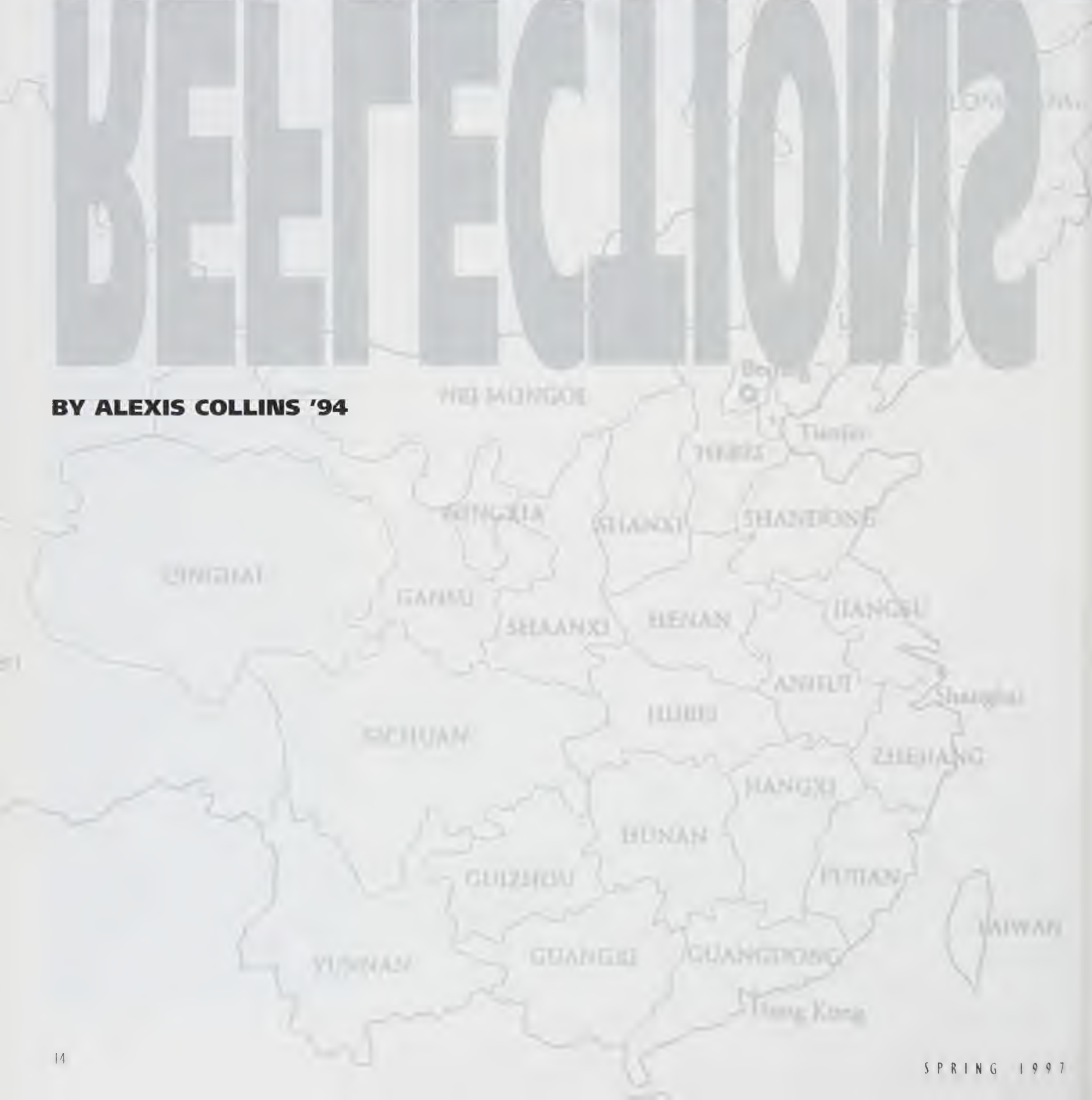
Small groups of campers and counselors live in the smallcamps, where they are called upon to make all equipment—including the canvas-covered shelters but not the sleeping cots—using only wood planks, logs, and rope. A fire pit and some basic, hand-built furniture constitutes a smallcamp kitchen. Kerosene lanterns, not flashlights, light the night sky. The latrine faces away from camp because it has no door. One luxury comes in the form of running water—from a faucet tied to a tree. But the old equipment and shortage of supplies often encountered are aspects of primitive camping that were never intended.

Throughout its history Trail Blazers has relied on gifts from alumni and government funding to meet its expenses, but these sources can no longer meet all the camp's needs. Five years ago cuts in government funding forced Trail Blazers' officials to close part of the facilities, reducing the number of children the camp can serve by half. Every summer camp administrators must turn away children because there isn't enough space for them.

If you would like to learn more about Trail Blazers, or if you can contribute in any way, write or call: 45 E. 20th St. 9th Floor, New York, NY 10001. Phone: (212) 529-5113. E-mail: tbcny@aol.com —EF

REFLECTIONS

BY ALEXIS COLLINS '94



FROM KUNMING

A SHANSI REP WRITES HOME

*When I stepped into China's
racially homogenous society,
where out of a few hundred for-
eigners I stand with a handful
of African descent, I became a
representative of not just the
West or America, but of my
entire race as well.*



At Tiananmen Square

W

hat's it like being a black person in China?" is a question I am frequently asked by other foreigners. A valid enough question, but one that always frustrates me because I never know how to answer. Race never seemed such an overwhelming issue for me until I came to China—being human is difficult enough without adding the baggage of racial stereotypes. Being a representative of African-Americans is a burden I have staunchly refused to bear at home, but one that is unavoidable here.

I admit I had negative impressions of China when I left for Yunnan University in Kunming in September 1994. Four years earlier, while studying in Shanghai during an Oberlin semester abroad, I met several African students who had already spent five or more years at Chinese universities. On the whole, they

were satisfied and happy, but a few complained about prejudice. They were never very specific; however, the *Lonely Planet* travel guide describes a series of ugly incidents at a university where dating between African students and Chinese women sparked riots. Chinese male students paraded around campus yelling, "Kill the Black Devils!" In the end, the African students had to be evacuated, although they were eventually reinstated. Reading that, I wondered if China was located in Asia or the Deep South.

Happily, my China experience has not included any incidents like that. I haven't even noticed an overt difference in the way I am treated by the average Chinese in contrast to white foreigners. My sense is that the Chinese are more color conscious than racist. In fact, Africans—and, by extension, all blacks—have been viewed as Marxist compatriots ever since the Maoist period, when African nations were the only ones to maintain ties with China.

Moreover, historically based racism as found in America is a deadweight not much in evidence here. America's legacy of slavery and Jim Crowism has been widely propagandized in China, creating strong feelings of sympathy, but creating some romanticized notions as well. I once helped give a



With a friend traveling aboard a train from Urumqui to Beijing.

lecture on African-Americans to a graduate-level American culture class. The questions the students asked me indicated their sentimentalized view of African-Americans' history: "Do you feel the pain of your ancestors?" "Do you feel any spiritual closeness with Africa?"

While the stereotypes of the black male

criminal and the welfare mother don't exist here, more benign but still frustrating assumptions and prejudices do. Take the Chinese people's standard of beauty, for instance. Even if I were Naomi Campbell's twin sister, I would be considered nothing less than hideous here because the standard is the paler the prettier. Historically, the



At the Kongkarchordi Monastery in the Yerlung River Valley.

only people in China who had dark skin were the poor peasants and day laborers; the aristocratic class valued pale skin as an indicator of wealth. Urbanites still go to great lengths to avoid tanning.

Then there's NBA basketball, which has caught on like wildfire here. Michael Jordan is probably more well known than Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston put together. When my father visited me he was beset with the question, "Do you play professional basketball?" Even if people didn't come up to say anything, I could hear them whispering among themselves, speculating about which team he plays for. There are plenty of tall, white foreigners, but no such chatter follows them since everyone knows NBA players are all black. In America, talk like that could cause a brawl, but these words were spoken with such innocence that we couldn't get upset. Most people were so amazed by Dad's height that we didn't have the heart to say that at 6'3" he's way too short to play. Not to mention, he's pushing 50.

Being ethnically homogenous, the Chinese still do not understand that race is not a clear indicator of nationality. As I walk down the street, comments like "Look, an African" echo behind me. All foreigners have to deal with the annoying cries of *Laowai* (foreigner). But rather than including an assumption about a person's identity, that reaction merely states a simple truth. Still, two years of nonsense like that can be grating. There is no anonymity. I must constantly justify myself against queries such as, "How can an American be so black?"

Sometimes, unless a person's skin literally is black, the Chinese won't know what he or she is. People have guessed that I'm anything from Malaysian to Mexican. For the first few months, the maids in our buildings insisted I must be from India despite my explanations to the contrary. Knowing that such assumptions stem from ignorance and lack of exposure, I try not to personalize the issue. Instead I make a game of it. Occasionally, when my nerves are really shot, I choose different nationalities to assume. My favorite is Brazilian because it keeps people from practicing their English on me. However, I quickly discovered that almost any lie works, taking the fun out of the game. People believe me no matter how outlandish my lies, even when I tell them I'm Swedish.

The most potent measure of status in the Chinese mind is not skin color, but class. As a holder of an American passport,

I'm seen as inhabiting the most advanced and developed nation in the world. Thus, I'm automatically placed in a high class, earning instant respect, regardless of my race. I can almost see the transformation in people's eyes as I move from being just another foreigner to a privileged American, the blackness of my skin becoming irrelevant. I'm sure part of the reason Africans experience greater discrimination here is because they are perceived as being even poorer than the Chinese.

These are solely my own impressions. I have had the opportunity to talk with some Chinese people about race. They do not see the issue in quite the same light as I, but their comments are interesting.

My Chinese teacher has taught foreigners for more than 15 years. In that time she has created her own hierarchy, which she feels accurately describes different races and nationalities. In her words, black people are especially smart and hardworking because, due to discrimination, they have had to work harder to gain the same opportunities whites readily have available. She also regards Asians (not including Japanese and Thai) as especially diligent. Chinese of course top the list as being resourceful, hardworking, loyal, and blessed with the most intelligence. Americans, in her eyes, are clever and efficient with well-developed analytic skills. Europeans she places at the bottom, claiming they are lazy and only concerned with having fun. While her remarks certainly cast me in a favorable light, this list of stereotypes disturbs me. Even a woman who has interacted with thousands of foreigners cannot see them as individuals.

Another friend used the interracial



Alexis and fellow Shansi rep Tanya Lee '93.

dating incident to deny the existence of racism. Even though the majority of Chinese agree that dating someone of another race is wrong, she proudly pointed out that the rioters had been punished. The general public also condemned the students' actions—even though they sympathized with the anger that prompted the violence.

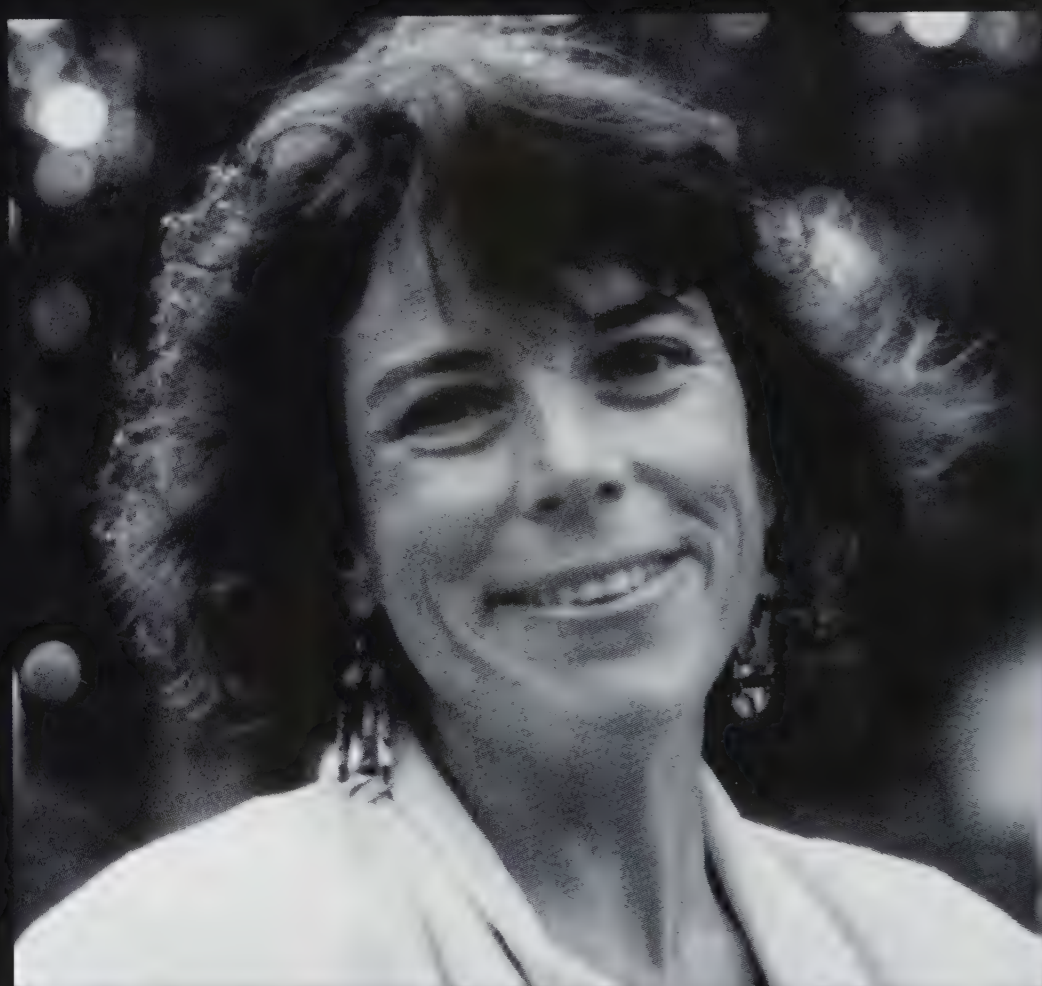
I pointed out that such thinking is racist, but she thought not. Such attitudes aren't directed solely at blacks, she explained; Chinese feel the same about all foreigners.

I guess that makes everything okay. □

ALEXIS COLLINS was a Shansi representative to Yunnan University in Kunming from September 1994 until August 1996. Reps write four letters a year to the Shansi Association, detailing their experiences. "Reflections from Kunming" was originally her last letter home. An East Asian studies and economics major at Oberlin, Alexis is now enrolled in law school at the University of Chicago, where she is completing her first year of studies. Photo of Alexis and Tanya Lee courtesy of the Shansi Association; all others courtesy of Alexis Collins.

*When the author tried
dressing for success, she
went way beyond navy blue
suits and sensible heels.
What did the effort get her?
That depends upon how you
define success.*

By Leslie Lawrence '72



King's

I had been teaching at a small women's college in New England, a nice place but with too many bake sales. Faculty dress like bankers; they protest via polite memos. A few brave students have green hair or no hair or tongues studded with jewels, but by and large, daring, eccentricity, or even playfulness are rare. So imagine my surprise when a colleague stopped me in the corridor to say women's studies and faculty development were cosponsoring a Cross-Dressing Workshop. Immediately I volunteered.

Not that cross-dressing has been a long standing interest, but I had recently attended a much-talked-about photography exhibit on the subject, and had seen a video there on a woman-to-man ("Drag King") workshop led by the same Diane Torr who would be conducting ours. Not for me, I had thought at first, but by the end of the video, when participants claimed the experience gave them more confidence and clout in the workplace, I was intrigued. My nontenure track job was scheduled to end soon, and I had been feeling beaten down, even wimpy. Clout, confidence—I could use some of those.



"Don't you want to think it over?" my colleague Laura asked.

"Nope," I said. "Put me down as a definite."

Within a few weeks, my voice mail started getting more interesting. One day Laura was telling me to begin thinking about the man I planned to become; the next, Betsy, reminding me I would need shoes and underwear—and a penis, too. Then Betsy again: Forget the penis, she and Laura would take care of that, as well as ace bandages for breast binding. She went on at some length about the construction of penises, and I, ignorant of the wondrous capacities of voice mail, marveled at the patience and presence of mind she must have had to send such a message to the dozen or so participants.

The day of the workshop, we gathered in the Special Functions room. I'd always found that name to be a mouthful, but now it seemed oddly appropriate. We drew the shades. Then, nervous and giggly, we disrobed, bound our breasts, discussed the proper way to position our disappointing penises (cotton batting wrapped in gauze!), donned the male duds we had each brought for ourselves, looked in the mirror, and saw . . . ourselves. Women dressed as men. But that was before the make-up man had his way with us. One by one we submitted to his gels, pencils, powders, and whiskers and were transformed.

Christine became Christopher, an Oxford Don with slicked-back hair, a pert mustache, wire-rims, and an effete, imperious manner. Though we'd not yet received any instructions, Christine instinctively knew that as a man she should abandon that tell-tale feminine trait: the smile, the aren't-I-cute/nice/comforting, confide-in-me/like me/love me/but don't-goose-me smile.

Deena, who had bought her suit and shoes at the Salvation Army, became Carlos, a mafioso in construction. I, in my own button fly jeans, sixties Frye boots, father's shirt, and neighbor's tie and khaki jacket, became . . . Well, I had thought I would want to be a "new man," sensitive, expressive, searching, and modest; but the moment I glared at my unsmiling, mustached mug with its five-o'clock shadow, I knew I had to be—longed to be—mighty man: crude, virile, self-assured, smug, and successful in all the ways I wasn't. Jeff Sykes was the name that came out of my mouth. No one I knew, but immediately he came into focus. Handsome, of course; bisexual; a rising sculptor with a tenured position at a nearby college (more prestigious than my own). I started

For a Day

shaking hands with the others who'd been made over. There was a nerdy science teacher, a strong silent cowboy, a swishy international art trader, a bandanna-clad forest ranger . . . each to his/her fantasy.

And finally we were ready for formal training: When walking, lumber; lean slightly forward and exaggerate the weight shift.

When dancing, move only from the waist down and stick to the step you learned in ninth grade.

When picking up a drink, do so decisively, with your whole hand.

When entering a room, don't check things out from the doorway, but charge in like you own the space.

And, most difficult of all, when talking, don't say much. Don't end a sentence in a questioning tone. Look slightly to the side of the person you're talking to, and if things get tense, just imagine your own eyes are set way back in the rear of your skull; that creates a feeling of distance—and safety.

After practicing each skill separately we were set loose to improvise at a "party."

"Hey Sykes, how's it going?"

"Not bad, not bad at all. Sold everything at the opening. Five galleries called last week."

Such shameless boasting was fun, as was strutting around, slapping the other guys on the back, making bold remarks I would normally censor or at least regret. How much more energy I had now that I wasn't worrying so much about everyone's feelings. And how much more relaxing to flop down into a chair, rather than remaining perched, ready for flight. I liked reaching into the bowl of beer nuts and not retreating on second thought, but digging in deep with my whole fist. I loved wondering about whom Jeff (or was it Leslie) was attracted to, and what this said about him/her/them. (The possibilities and permutations there were endless—and confirmed my belief that sexual attraction is as graspable as a spunky trout.)

I think I am generally viewed as averagely feminine, and was surprised by how easily I could transform myself, by how quickly the new me felt nearly as genuine as the old—a good lesson in the power of appearance. A good opportunity to question whether our gendered behavior is as natural and innate as most of us assume.

Leaving the college, I was grateful it was already dark, and by pure coincidence, Halloween. The plan was to regroup, still in drag, at a Thai restaurant. Though I pride myself on not giving much weight to public opinion, the prospect of being perceived as a gender outlaw—or an ordinary man—was terrifying. Nevertheless, even in the relative privacy of my car, I remained Jeff, instinctively shifting gears more forcefully, changing lanes with more bravado. And outside again, debating how much to withdraw from the money machine, I rejected the habitual \$60 in favor of the more manly \$80. Yes, I thought, this being a man has a lot to recommend itself.

But as I strode toward the restaurant, anticipating dinner with a bunch of men, my love affair with this trip ended. I didn't want to talk stocks or conquests or even

ended. I didn't want to talk stocks or conquests or even galleries and dealers; I wanted to talk girl talk. To lean in close, confess all, nod sympathetically. In short, I wanted myself—and Laura, Betsy, Christine, Deena, et al.

They must have wanted the same. When we entered, we resisted smiling, which wasn't easy, since it's one thing to be cold and imperious with one's friends, quite another to be that way with proud, eager-to-please waitpeople. But once we gave our orders, we (except for the make-up man who, according to rumor, was actually a woman, or had been until recently) slid easily back into our female selves, smiling big, passing around tastes, "processing" our day.

Several had not enjoyed the experience nearly as much as I. They didn't want to be like men, or they wanted too much to be like men, or they feared they were already too manly, or . . . or . . . Some were unable to explain the resistance they felt. We all steered clear of the attraction issue.

Halfway through my pad thai, remembering the hour, I asked Betsy, a psychologist, if she thought my four-year-old son would be upset if I arrived home in drag.

"Remove the mustache," she advised. So I did. But I didn't know what to do with the hairs. (My pocket? The pink tablecloth?) "Just toss 'em under the table," Lisa suggested. "That's what a man would do." We all laughed. I tossed, then went to the men's room. Fortunately it was a single. No one to see my feet pointing the wrong way, to share my surprise when my penis fell out. I washed off the mustache glue and five o'clock shadow, and, looking into the mirror, saw myself again, smiling. With a sickening thud I was struck with the realization that in all my adult life, I had never exited a public rest room without first checking out that smile.

Driving home, I reverted to my old languid shifting. When I arrived, my son just shrugged at my outfit and was disappointed that the mustache was gone. He wanted one himself, not pencil but real hairs, and I regretted not putting the wad in my pocket.

The next day, I felt a bit jet-lagged—not so much tired as shaky and disoriented. But as with my re-entry after other exotic sojourns, I was surprised at how quickly I readjusted to my old culture. By lunchtime barely a tic from Jeff Sykes remained. I was walking, talking, smiling, and thinking like the old me—only now I had the unsettling knowledge that, without much effort, it could be otherwise.

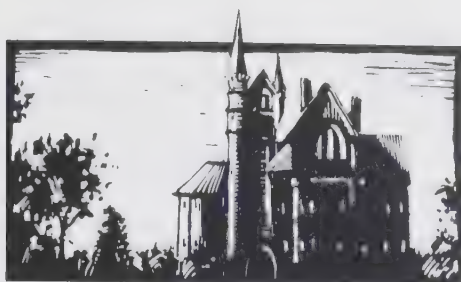
As for the other participants, no big changes so far as I know. But I did notice a normally mousy woman wearing a bright red blouse one day, and another wore jeans to a faculty meeting. Christine, whose reassuring smile is back, insists her professional life would be easier if she were Chris. As for Jane, who seemed so much more at home as a man that I thought she might have signed on as Kevin for the long haul—she returned as Jane, wary as ever.

Months have passed. I enjoy passing around the pictures; everyone is interested, some envious. The man who cuts my hair (and spends part of each weekend as a woman) asked the most right-on question, "Was it fun?"

Lately I've noticed that I like to send mixed messages with the clothes I wear—pearls with jeans, clunky boots with granny skirts. I've taken to buying more expensive footwear (shoes really do make the woman, or at least influence the way she moves and feels). I don't long to be a man again. I no longer immediately assume that a quality I lack but admire in others, men or women, is beyond my reach.

When I went for my annual conference with the dean, I tried to smile less. The effort didn't hurt; it didn't help. My contract still ended. I can't claim to have gained clout, but I do like to think that ever since that day, I have felt less depressed, even a little—well—cockier. But if that's true, my change of mood probably has less to do with having been a man for a day than with my shored up faith that, as my son's annoying T-shirt says, *I Can Be Anything!* It's a good feeling to have when you're an academic looking for a job in Boston. □

A National Endowment for the Arts fellow, LESLIE LAWRENCE's work has been published in many periodicals and anthologies, including The Boston Globe Magazine, Redbook, the Colorado Review, and Women on Women 1. Her essay "Fits & Starts" appears in the Spring '97 issue of the Massachusetts Review. Since writing "King for a Day," Leslie has found only temporary and adjunct teaching positions.



Alumni News & Notes

Everything you always wanted to know about cluster reunions
but were afraid to ask. They call him Odd Todd.



Year by Year

1933 Norman B. Miller celebrated his 85th birthday at a country club brunch in Tampa, Fla., with 27 relatives and friends on October 6, 1996. He says the crowning event was the presentation of "Special Times We've Shared," an album of photos of Norman with family members and friends from his childhood to the present, and letters and cards from childhood chums, Oberlin and law school classmates, and former law school students, "... who are now positioned to tell me what the law is," he says. Norm was president of the Class of 1933 when members observed their 60th reunion in Oberlin.

1937 Frances Hutchinson Bray lives at Pilgrim Place, a retirement community of 315 residents in Claremont, Calif., where she says she sees several Obies every day. Among them: Marjorie Widney, Donald Webster '23, Ray Gibbons

'24, Marjorie Gibbons '25, Kitty Strong '34, Selden Dickinson '35, Darrell Farnham '42, Frances Ulrich Genung '40, and Gordon Blunt '48. A former member and president of the residence's board of directors is Mary Jane Merrill '49, and Fran Ross lives just down the street. "We are very much aware of Oberlin every day," Frances says. She recently attended the 50th wedding anniversary of Kenneth and Marie Losh, parents of Wendy Losh-Johnson '72. Wesley Hawks '61 performed several clarinet solos for the occasion, and Wendy, who played many of the organ pieces during the ceremony, also played a piano duet with her young son, Trevor.

1941 Philip G. Swartz says that the Oberlin Peters Hall plate he received in September in recognition of his selection as Class President of the Year (*OAM* Fall/Winter 1996) has a special place in his and Ginny's living room, and, also, in their hearts. Ginny, the former Virginia Amerio '44, was recognized in October for her 50 years of volunteer work with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic orchestra, and named honorary trustee of the HVP board of directors. A few days later Ginny was notified by the local A.A.U.W. that she had been chosen Woman of the Year. Phil says he and their family are very proud of her.

1943 Merton Bernstein is enjoying the delights of grandparenting "two scrumptious girls and

one amazing boy," while he continues to teach, write, and lecture. His article, "Social Security: More Gain, Less Pain," appeared in the Sunday, June 23, 1996, *New York Times* business section; his commentary, "Fed Interest Boosts Sideswipe Social Security," ran on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" program September 24, 1996. Address: 63 Waterman Place, St. Louis, MO 63112. ▼ Mary A. "Mittens" Glover is a doctor in private practice in Hawaii where she sometimes spends 60 hours a week working and driving to cover for other doctors. Other weeks may entail only 30 hours, and, she says, there is a little time for Quaker Peace and Justice activities, hiking, occasional swims, beach walks, and trimming the hedges. Address: 87-226 Holomalia Place, Waianae, HI 96792.

1947 Thalia Cheronis Selz lectured on Greek-American women artists at the Hellenic Museum & Cultural Center in Chicago in March 1996, and also at St. George Cathedral in Hartford, Conn., last October. In November she read an excerpt from a novel-in-progress as part of "Writers' Harvest: The National Reading" at Gallows Hill Bookstore in Hartford. The purpose of the readings, taking place across the nation, is to raise money to feed the hungry. "Every penny of the more than \$500 we raised in a couple of hours went to Food Share in the Greater Hartford area," she says.

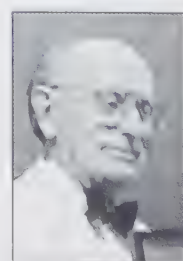
Address: 52 Coolidge St., Hartford, CT 06106. Phone: (860) 527-4141.

1951 Helen Bequaert "Becky" Holmes has been awarded a grant from the Ethical, Social and Legal Implications Branch of the National Center for Genome



Research. In May 1996 she directed a workshop, "Women and Genetics in Contemporary Society," at the Muskingham Valley Conference in Ohio. Over 60 women, including philosophers, sociologists, biologists, genetic counselors, disability activists, and women's health advocates defined and explored issues raised by the current initiative to map and sequence the human genome. Address: 24 Berkshire Terrace, Amherst, MA 01002. Phone: (413) 549-1226 or 549-1925. E-mail: fholmes@pltpath.umass.edu

1952 Henry Janiec, artistic director for the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina, received the highest civilian award given by the Governor's office, the Long Leaf Pine award, last summer. Joan Weld, executive assistant to Governor Hunt, presented the plaque, citing



Janiec

1952 CONTINUED

Henry's service to North Carolina's cultural scene during his 32 years with BMC. "Without Henry, there would be no Brevard Music Center," said BMC president John Candler during the presentation ceremony. Henry retired following the August 11, 1996, summer festival concert.

1953 Leonore Davidoff spent last spring as a fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study of the Social Sciences in Uppsala, visiting a number of lecturers at universities in Norway, Sweden, and as far away as the Arctic Circle. Her collected essays were published in 1995, and she is currently working on a book in collaboration with three graduate students. She says her sons are scattered around the world, and that she has two grandchildren in Nicaragua. Address: 82 High St., Wivenhoe, Essex CO79AB, England, United Kingdom.

1954 Edwin Mehlhaff says he is well recovered from the quadruple bypass surgery he had in June 1996. After years of serving churches in Nebraska, Kansas, and Illinois, he became a United Church of Christ conference minister in 1976, serving many areas of the country, and finally retiring in Texas. "I owe much to Oberlin Graduate School of Theology for preparing me well for my chosen profession, which has been a creative and fulfilling experience. Life has been good," he says. Address: 4054 Colwood Dr., Spring, TX 77388. Phone: (713) 350-1483.

1955 John W. Davis, Jr. says he has finally retired after serving as director of counseling for 33 years at SUNY at Geneseo. He says he is still busy, and manages to travel some. E-mail: jdavis8606@aol.com
▼ Susan Wager Schwartz earned her Ph.D. in architectural history at Pennsylvania State University in January 1996 with a dissertation entitled, "The Suburban Corporate Headquarters in the United States, an Evolving Building Type."

1957 Joe Hickerson was an invited participant of "Hard

Overseas Alumni Aid International Student Recruitment

Last fall Harry Dawe '58 headed to Asia on an Oberlin admissions' trip designed to build a broader base of support for the College overseas. He traveled to Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand, where he started the process of recruitment by contacting the college counselors of secondary schools in the areas he visited, and by helping Oberlin graduates living there build alumni groups.

"An essential part of student recruitment is the help of local alumni who interview applicants, follow up with admitted students, and generally make Oberlin better known in their area," says Harry, an international recruitment specialist.

Harry met with about 20 alumni, four of whom have assumed leadership roles in organizing their regions—Rich Gustavson '96, Tokyo; Eton Churchill '85, Kyoto; Jonathan Lassen '94, Taipei; and Jonathan Harger, Bangkok.

Harry will return to Japan and Hong Kong in the spring, when he'll also visit Seoul, Singapore, and Bombay to spread the word about Oberlin and organize more alumni outreach.



Harry Dawe was welcomed to Bangkok with an alumni reception organized by Jonathan Harger '65. The fete, held at the Siam Intercontinental Hotel, marked Bangkok's first official alumni gathering. Left to right: Matthew Nicely '87, Ken Pas '62, Harger, Charles Mohl '74, Alisa Yammarm '90, Dawe, Eric Rosser '74, Phan Wannamethee '51, and Kramol Tongdbummachart '51.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JONATHAN HARGER

Travelin': The Life and Legacy of Woody Guthrie," a series of events held September 27-29, 1996, in Cleveland, supported by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and the Woody Guthrie Archives. Joe presented information on the Library of Congress Folk Archives' Guthrie collections at two sessions, entitled "Woody's Recording Career" and "Researching Woody." Joe also exchanged information with other Guthrie fans, including Billy Bragg, Ramblin Jack Elliot, Arlo Guthrie, Nora Guthrie, Fred Hellerman, Joe Klein, Harold Leventhal, Country Joe Seeger, and Bruce Springsteen. Address: 43 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912-4338. Phone: (301) 270-1107 or (202) 707-1725. E-mail: jhic@loc.gov

1959 Charlene M. Moore Cooper recently retired from the District of Columbia Public Schools after 19 years as an instrumental music teacher, preceded by 15 years as a counselor and a counseling psy-

chologist working with emotionally disturbed adolescents and young adults. She is currently director of music ministries and organist at a local church, music director for the Municipal Opera Company of Baltimore, and director of several choir groups. She lectures on liturgical music for the United Methodist Church and at Howard University's School of Divinity. "Cookie" and Jimmy are celebrating 36 years of marriage, and enjoying their adult daughter, Valerie, now at Harvard, and son, James III, who works in nearby Maryland. Address: 4461 South Dakota Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20017-2751. Phone: (202) 529-8672. E-mail: CMooreCoop@aol.com

1960 Larry Palmer has been named head of the organ department in the Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University, Dallas. He teaches organ and serves as curator of the Fisk organ, Opus 101, while continuing as head of SMU's graduate studies in

music. Larry was called upon last October to substitute for a player who became ill just before a series of three symphony subscription performances of Bach's *Fifth Brandenburg Concerto*. Larry arrived in Baton Rouge, L.A., just one hour before the dress rehearsal, only to discover another Obie who was also substituting—Lauren Davis '86, the



orchestra's assistant concertmaster, was replacing an ailing colleague as violin soloist. Larry says that the performances were "elegant, stylishly relaxed, and extremely well received." At SMU since 1970, Larry is on sabbatical leave during spring 1997, working on his third book; the topic is 20th century literature for solo harpsichord—history and performance hints. Address: 10125 Cromwell Dr., Dallas, TX 75229. Phone: (214) 350-3628. E-mail: lpalmer@mail.smu.edu

1964 Stan Gutelius and three other Obies—his wife, Chris Rand Gutelius '66, Caroline Walker '95, and Bruce Gutelius '95—competed in the Captain Myles Keough Paddle Wheel and Run (The Great Race XIX) in Auburn, N.Y., August 11, 1996. The Great Race is one of the largest team triathlons in the country, with 383 four-person teams this year. The intrepid Oberlin Four finished 32nd (of 96) in their division, and 3rd (of 7) in their category. Caroline led off on the running leg and Bruce followed on the bike. Chris and Stan finished up in the canoe. "Encouraged by the fact that we were actually able to finish our race, we have sworn to train *prior* to next year's race and improve our standing," says Stan.

1965 Thomas Wolanin says he is leaving federal government service after nearly 21 years and joining

1966 Sarah Gibbard Cook
and Geoff Gilpin have begun their second year “amid cows and cornfields, not far from Madison,” says Sally. Her freelance writing and editing has transplanted to Wisconsin “surprisingly well,” and she says that, in a radical lifestyle shift, she is home most evenings, serves on no committees, and is learning to garden. “A grandchild is on the way. Life is good,” she says. Address: 6973 Heron Way, DeForest, WI 53532. E-mail: sgc@mailbag.com

1967 After exploring what he calls “some disappointing career options,” **Chris Asmussen** has left the world of academe to enter the for-profit sector. A position in

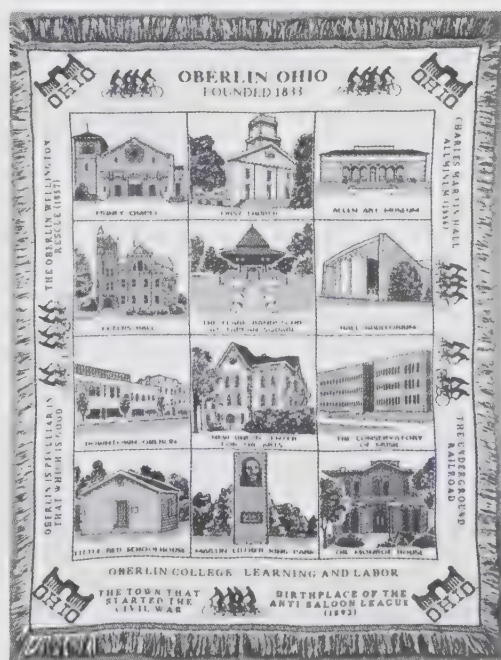
human resources was created for him at the Olan Mills headquarters in Chattanooga, and, he says, "It is enjoyable and challenging, and NPR, books on tape, and beautiful scenery make the commute quite tolerable." ▼ **Ellen Chanas** moved to Manhattan last August, and continues teaching as professor of Russian literature and culture at Princeton. Ellen writes fiction, poetry and essays, and occasional scholarly works. Address: 11 Riverside Dr., Apt. 22 PW, New York, NY 10023. ▼ **Janet McNeill** and her husband, Dave Musante, completed their contracts in Central Asia last June and have relocated to Houston, Texas, where Janet has been appointed assistant vice president for public affairs at Rice University, and Dave is writing a book. Janet's business address: Rice University Public Affairs, 5620 Greenbriar, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77005. Phone: (713) 831-4798. E-mail: jmcneill@rice.edu

1968 Dwight W. Call has lived successively in Japan, Geneva, Cameroon, and Melbourne since 1981, directing study abroad programs. He oversaw 12 Africa programs as regional director for the School for International Programs in Ghana, Madagascar, and Tanzania. Last August, he says, he rang in his second half-century at a gathering in New Jersey with 35 friends from Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States, including Oberlin roommate, **Mark Schomer**, who works for the Christian Children's Fund in Richmond. In November he saw another Obie roommate, **Bill Harman**, who lives in Indianapolis and teaches religion at DePauw. Dwight's next assignment: assistant vice president of Georgia College for International Programs and assistant professor of anthropology. Address: 405 Baldwin Ave., Milledgeville, GA 31061. E-mail: dwight.call@rub.com

1969 Lorna Forbes recently moved from North Carolina to Oregon where she and her husband, Ric, are resettling after he accepted a position teaching economics at Southern Oregon State College.

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1969 CONTINUED

Lorna is doing social work in a hospital-based home health agency for health and hospice patients. Address: 372 Iowa St., Ashland, OR 97520. Phone: (541) 488-9239. ▼ **Cecil B. "Butch" Washington, Jr.**, former director of Operation Crossroads, is now a consultant for that group. The organization is celebrating 40 years of promoting grassroots democracy and nonviolent solutions in Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. Summer internships and work-travel-study projects include rain forest ecology, self-help community development, fisheries/wildlife management, primary medicine, public health, archaeology, and campaigns against female genital mutilation. Address: 3697 Platt Ave., Rear B, Lynwood, CA 90262. Phone/fax: (310) 632-1582. E-mail: crw@loop.com or oca@lga.apc.org

1970 Wendy Carlton is

working in a community mental health center in the Seattle area as a program director for ACCESS. She has a 15-year-old daughter, Sara; a son, Josh, who is 18; and a "loaner" son, Dean, 19. E-mail: wendyc@highline.org

1971 Peter Braun and

Diane Katzenburg Braun celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Doria Phelps-Braun '96, to Curtis Hughes '97 on the shores of New Hampshire's Newfound Lake Aug. 3, 1996. Others attending the wedding were Dori's birth father, Roger Phelps '70, and her grandmother, Rosemarie Beck '44, along with many others from the classes of '96, '97, and '98. Dori and Curtis will continue to live in Oberlin until his graduation, when he plans to continue his studies in music education. Dori plans graduate work in folklore. Peter and Diane say they continue to be intensely busy with Peter's law and Diane's music careers, and with their sons, Jake, 16, and Luke, 15.

1972 Charles and Maryan

Ainsworth joined Thom Kren '71 last spring for a visit to the Villa Seraceno, a Palladian villa begun between 1546 and 1555 for Biagio Seraceno. The stay in this Landmark

Trust house in Vivenza, Italy, was organized by Parks and Christie Hawes Campbell, both '52, and included other Oberlin alumni guests: Bruce Robertson, former Oberlin art history professor, Dick '51 and Carol Keith Crout '52 and Genette Foster '65. "Learning and labor, and lots of good fun, were had by all," says Maryan. ▼ **Carol Kirkpatrick Rhodes** accepted a part-time position as coordinator of musical resources at her independent Evangelical church last July. She continues to teach piano at her home studio, but has deliberately reduced the number of students to nine to allow time for home-schooling her youngest son. Her two older sons enjoy playing brass instruments in the school marching band, she says, following in the footsteps of her husband, Russ, a trombonist and band director.

1974 Lindy Guttman trav-

eled to Adelaide, Australia, last spring to study narrative therapy, leaving husband Peter Zaas '74 to look after their 11-year-old daughter, Susannah, and to generally hold down the fort. Lindy continued on to Sydney for sightseeing, and addressed the Sydney Narrative Network before "reluctantly returning to the U.S.," she says, to continue her private practice in family therapy. E-mail: LindyGuttman@aol.com ▼ **Philip Himberg** sold his 11-year acupuncture business in Santa Monica to finish his first novel, now in the hands of a New York agent. Last August he began work with Robert Redford's Sundance Institute in Santa Monica as producing director for all Sundance Theatre programs, and will consequently be spending part of his time in Utah. His daughter, Fanny, (with partner Jim Ballantine) began kindergarten last September. ▼ **Thomas Lloyd** teaches part time in Haverford College's music department and directs the Bryn Mawr-Haverford Choral program. Thomas was formerly assistant professor of music at Hamilton College.

1975 Elizabeth DiFelice

recently completed the D.M.A. degree and is visiting assistant professor of piano at the Eastman

School of Music. Betsy is continuing her position teaching and coordinating the piano program at Princeton while performing with various ensembles in New York City. She says she figure skates to stay sane, and that "yearly vacations also help—Italy, France, Poland, and Scotland were all great." ▼ **Edith Wiens-Moser** continues to teach as a professor in Dusseldorf, but she lives outside of Munich, at Georg-Shuster, Str. 10, 82152 Krailling, Germany.

1976 Gary Kurlancheek

has been named vice president, market research, at James River Corporation, a leading marketer and manufacturer of paper consumer products. After earning his MBA at Carnegie Mellon University, Gary began his career at



Kurlancheek

General Mills where he progressed through several management positions to become head of market research at the Red Lobster Division in 1989. Gary will be evaluating tactical and strategic opportunities for River's many brands, including Brawny paper towels, Dixie paper cups, Quilt-Rap sandwich wrap, Word Pro copy paper, and several other national brands manufactured by the firm, which has a current annual sales rate of approximately \$5.5 billion.

1978 David Neil Lewis has

been co-owner of Little and Lewis, Inc. since 1992, specializing, he says, in "unique, different, concrete garden sculpture" hand-worked by David and his partner, George Little. Their garden gallery has earned coast-to-coast attention, with features in *House & Garden*, *Horticulture*, and on national TV. David says his classics background brings strong sculptural influences from Greece, Rome, and Mexico to their work. Address: 1940 Wing Point Way, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Phone: (206) 842-8327. ▼ **Deborah J. Glossner Taub** says she has had more than her allotted 15 minutes of fame since she appeared as a contestant on *Jeopardy!* last

September. (She came in second.) Since then, she says, she has been amazed at how many people watch that show; she heard from long-lost friends, friends of friends, and interested strangers. She also noted that her appearance on the show was a good way to make her introduction to the Purdue community. Deborah wonders how many Obies have been on *Jeopardy!* (and the *OAM* is curious, too). Address: 2418 Farmington Place, Lafayette, IN 47905. Phone: (317) 494-9746. E-mail: dtaub@omni.cc.purdue.edu

1979 Fred Bobb of Palm

City, Fla., and his high-school sweetheart, Keri Vickery of Seattle, Wash., whom he had not seen since the summer of 1981, were reunited in New York last May on the Richard Bey TV show. Their guest appearance occupied the first 15 minutes of the show, and Fred was surprised to learn, when Richard Bey told the audience, that both of Keri's ex-husbands looked like Fred.

▼ **Theodor Mueser** and his wife, Laura, announce the birth of their son, William Roland Mueser. Ted is a deputy prosecuting attorney with the Snohomish County Family Support Division. Address: 6211 4th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98107. ▼

Ellen Orleans has been engulfed in her writing. Her third book, *The Butches of Madison County*, (see "Issued," *Summer 1996 OAM*) won a 1996 national Lambda Literary Award for best lesbian and gay humor. Another book is forthcoming, and will be noted in the next issue of *OAM*. Ellen's first play, *Why Is This Night?*, is about 10 lesbians at a Passover Seder, and was performed at the University of Colorado/Boulder in March. ▼ **Chris Rabot** and Evie McKenna had their first child, Martin Tristram, September 7, 1996, and have named **Gerard Smith** as the baby's godfather. The couple lives in Brooklyn while they build a new home in the Catskills. Chris is working as a proofreader in Manhattan.

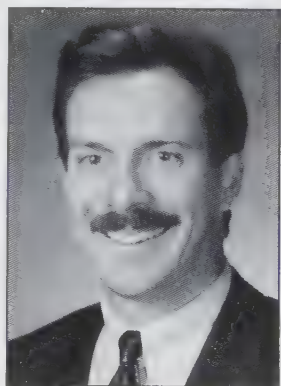
1980 Bruce Beasley won

the 1996 Colorado Prize for his third collection of poems, *Summer Mystagogia*. The manuscript was selected in national competition by

Odd Man In, In Cincinnati

By David Milstead '94

One political observer in conservative Cincinnati calls city council member Todd Portune '80 "Odd Todd." No surprise, perhaps, that it's the Obie who gets tagged with such a moniker. But while Oberlin exposed him to a variety of viewpoints, Todd says his principles were shaped by events that took place before he ever set foot on campus.



"I don't know that I went to Oberlin being political," says the self-described liberal Democrat. "I went with a good background, instilled by my parents, of being active in things."

Todd, a partner in the law firm Cohen, Todd, Kite & Stanford and a recent president of the College's Heisman Club, chose Oberlin for its mix of academics and athletics. Actively recruited by former track coach Tommie Smith, he ran track for four years, played football for three, and threw in a year of cross country. He exhibited an interest in politics during his Oberlin days, but not the wherewithal to withstand electoral ups and downs; he ran for Student Senate as a freshman, lost, and never ran again.

Besides his parents' influence, Todd cites three events as important to his developing political conscience: his father's death, his mother's attempt to reenter the workforce, and his cousin's murder.

Todd was just 14 when his father died. "We weren't prepared for that as a family," he recalls. "... I've always understood that each of us is just a tomorrow away from dire circumstances and there should be safety nets." Seeing his mother's subsequent struggle to get a job led Todd to vow that whenever he saw discrimination he would try to eradicate it.

Several years later, while Todd was enrolled at Oberlin, his cousin, a Cincinnati firefighter, was murdered. Considering what led the murderer to commit the crime, Todd says he came to realize that "it didn't matter how many prisons or police on the street there were. There was something happening with that person; none of that stuff made any difference."

Todd may not have entered Oberlin as a political animal, but he left with a heightened confidence that afforded him the courage of his convictions. "The main thing I came away with was a firm commitment to be involved—without specificity—but to be involved, not to be afraid to voice an opinion, to take a stand on an issue, to make a difference."

He's applied those principles to the issues of Cincinnati. Todd has been outspoken in opposition to Issue 1, the ballot initiative that passed several years ago, prohibiting gay-rights ordinances. He's sponsored local campaign-spending limits that will likely be challenged all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. And, after last fall's racial uproar at Texaco, he pushed for Cincinnati to sell its stock in the company, a move approved by city council a few months ago.

Not all of Todd's battles are fought over public issues. Early last year, he was diagnosed with a rare spinal cord disease that spread tumors throughout his body. He is undergoing a regimen of radiation treatments and physical therapy, and will be checked every six months to ensure the tumors have been kept at bay.

He is open about his illness, but as a public figure, he has no choice. Upon his return from the Mayo Clinic, photographers and camera crews crowded into council chambers for his first session back. "City Manager John Shirey asked me, 'Why are all these people here? The agenda is light.' And I said, 'John, they are here to see how long it is until I die.'"

Todd nonetheless fights on, distinguishing himself on a council often hidebound by conservatism. "It's hard here, but it's necessary here," he says. "The temptation is to throw in the towel, but if I throw in the towel, who's going to raise the issues? Who's going to carry it forward and make the difference?"

And what about "Odd Todd," the nickname given him by Jim Schiffrin, a retired right-wing PR executive who publishes a daily fax newsletter called "The Whistleblower"?

"I think he just uses it because it rhymes," says Todd.

DAVID MILSTEAD is editor of the Dayton edition of Small Business News. He lives in Cincinnati.



Todd Portune (right) enrolled at Oberlin in 1976, lured by both the College's academic reputation and the opportunity to run track for Olympic gold medalist Tommie Smith (left).

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TODD PORTUNE

the renowned poet Charles Wright, and the award includes a \$1,000 prize and publication of the book by the University Press of Colorado. Bruce is associate professor of English at Western Washington University. ▼ **Charlie Bruehl** and his wife, Linda, announce the birth of their third child, Melissa Jane, July 1, 1996. Melissa was born with a severe congenital heart condition and spent her first two months in intensive care. After successful open-heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, she is at home, becoming acquainted with sister Samantha, 5, and brother Douglas, 4. ▼ **Andra Marx**, Mark Madonna, and big sister Zoë Marx Madonna, welcomed Jacob Marx Madonna on May 7, 1996. Zoë, age 3, and Jacob enjoyed the summer playing together with Andra, who returned to work at New York Life Asset Management in Parsippany, N.Y., last September. Mark is now at home full-time with the children. Address: 18 Arcularius Terrace, Maplewood, NJ 07040. Phone: (201) 378-3930. ▼ **Diana R. Maurer** married Bob Schatz in Burlington, Vt., October 8, 1995, "much to the extreme relief of my mother and grannie," she says. "Our premarital classes included fly-fishing and scuba certification." Diana says she has taken her husband's name, in part because Bob, an airspace specialist for the FAA in the new Denver International Airport, is from the South; the other reason is that so many people misspelled or mispronounced her own last name. Obies in attendance at their November reception included **Seth Henry** and Bill Catlin '81. Diana is still prosecuting consumer fraud for the Colorado Attorney General, and has settled with Bob in Denver in a 1928 Craftsman-style bungalow, along with Woody, the chocolate lab; Mikey, the cat; and Gilbert, the fish. E-mail: mss-chatzie@aol.com ▼ **Laurie Schneider** and Craig Hill are parents of redheaded Liam Orion Hill, born January 25, 1996. Laurie is on leave from the graduate program in American studies at Washington State University. Address: 1015 NW Clifford, Pullman, WA 99163. Phone: (509) 332-1120.

The Cluster What? How Oberlin's Reunion System Works

By Midge Wood Brittingham '60

If you're a typical Obie, chances are you didn't run only with members of your own graduating class. More likely than not, you befriended people who were on campus at the same time you were—even if they graduated a year or two before or after you did. Enabling reunioneering alumni to return to campus with friends from adjacent classes was a large part of the reason the Alumni Association adopted the cluster system for Commencement-Reunion Weekend.

The cluster system has been in effect since May 1974, and although the practice has proved popular, it can be confusing to the uninitiated. The cluster system allows three classes to gather together for reunions every five years. The middle class of each cluster celebrates its reunion on the actual five-year interval. For instance, this May the cluster 1981, 1982, and 1983 will celebrate its 15th reunion and the cluster 1961, 1962, and 1963 will celebrate its 35th reunion. These clusters will return again in 2002 for their 20th and 40th reunions.

Clusters remain the same until the classes reach their 25th reunion, which each class celebrates alone. After the 25th reunions, the cluster configurations change, and remain in effect until the classes' 50th reunion, which is also celebrated alone. Fiftieth-reunion class members

are inducted into the association's Half-Century Club, whose members are thereafter invited to return for every Commencement-Reunion Weekend. Nevertheless, the association does hold a 55th, 60th, 65th, and sometimes a 70th reunion at a class' regular five-year interval.

Like everything else in life, though, the cluster system is not perfect. Sometimes the break between clusters doesn't satisfy an individual's desire. If you're part of an Obie couple, your partner might be in a different cluster. So might your best friend. There's one consolation, though—if you don't like your cluster, just wait 25 years and you'll have a new one!

You can also propose an alternative format. Send your proposal to Danette DiBasio Wineberg '68, President, Oberlin College Alumni Association, 50 W. Lorain St., Bosworth 105, Oberlin, OH 44074. A chart displaying cluster reunions through the year 2019 is also available from Margaret Sahs Erikson '62, director of on-campus alumni activities. Write to her at the Alumni Association address listed above, call (216) 775-8692, or send e-mail to alumoffc@ais.alumdev.oberlin.edu.

MIDGE WOOD BRITTINGHAM is executive director of the Oberlin College Alumni Association.

1981 University of Virginia art history Ph.D. candidate **Carl Wuellner** traveled last summer to Rome, where he conducted dissertation research on 18th-century Roman patronage and collecting activity in the circle of Cardinal Alessandro Albani. Carl's trip was funded by a President's Grant from the university. Carl works in the paintings department at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, Calif., where he is writing a summary catalog on the paintings collection. E-mail: CWuellner@Getty.edu ▼ **Eric Yaffe** has left his position as prosecutor in the homicide section of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. He works in the Public Integrity Section of the United States Department of Justice, where he prosecutes public corruption cases across the country. Eric lives in Bethesda, Md., with his wife, Jane, and three sons, Russell, Carl, and Bert.

1982 In July 1995 **Adrienne Edgar** married Adebisi Agboola in California's Stanislaus National Forest. Two classmates attended the wedding: **Victor Yalom** and **Rob**

Sieger. "Bisi" is a math professor at U.C. Santa Barbara, and Adrienne is working on her Ph.D. in Soviet history at U.C. Berkeley. Last spring, when Adrienne was in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, doing research for her dissertation, she was delighted, she says, to run into Kitty Barnhouse Purgason '75, there under a Fulbright fellowship, training English teachers. Address: 968 West Campus Lane, Goleta, CA 93117. Phone: (805) 685-3050. ▼ In October 1994 **Rebecca Henderson** and Dan Kowalski were married in Golden, Colo., and in September 1996 they moved to Seattle from Denver. Rebecca is on the faculty of the University of Washington, and plays oboe with the Soni Ventorum Quintet. In March 1996 she played the Bach *Oboe d'amore Concerto* with the Colorado Symphony, and in 1995 was a prize winner in the New York International competition for solo oboists. Address: 4212 Wallingford Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103. Phone: (206) 574-5255. ▼ New York architect **Steven Landau** was awarded a study grant from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Study in the Fine Arts. His topic will

be North American hydro-electric dams of the 20th century. Phone: (212) 675-0500. ▼ An assistant professor of pharmacology at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons since 1993, **David Solomon** teaches psychopharmacology to medical students and house staff, teaches undergraduates at Columbia College, and conducts research in the areas of childhood epilepsy and the molecular mechanisms of learning and memory. "Like many New Yorkers," he says, "I spend hours commuting, and I take the A train home to Brooklyn, where I live with my daughter, Rachel, who just started first grade." Address: 69 St. James Place, Brooklyn, NY 11238. Phone: (212) 305-1456. E-mail: dhs3@columbia.edu

1983 In October 1994, after living seven years in Berkeley, **Brian Blum**, his wife, Jody, and their two children—Amir, 5, and Merav, 3—moved to Israel where Jody is a social worker for the city of Jerusalem, and the children are learning Hebrew. Brian has opened Blum Interactive Media, Ltd., an interactive consulting firm based in

Jerusalem. A creative writing major, Brian says he is genuinely pleased to be making a living from his writing. ▼ **Adena Cohen** married her partner of five years, Arnie Bearak, October 13, 1996, at Congregation Kehillath Israel in Brookline, Mass. "It was absolutely wonderful having my Oberlin friends there," says Adena, and she also appreciated that her Obie guests tried to learn Israeli folk dancing so they could join the festivities. Among the celebrants were **Anne Richmond** (who did a reading from Kahlil Gibran during the ceremony) and her life partner, Todd Grosett; **Karen Forbes** and her husband, Larry Gage; and **Kris Peterson Hopkins**, whose husband, Rob '75, was unable to attend. ▼ **Cynthia Gray Dickerson** and her husband, Dan, announce the birth of their second daughter, Katherine Louise Gray Dickerson, July 3, 1995. Cynthia says that Katherine and Victoria, age 4, get along beautifully so far, much to the surprise and relief of the parents, who say they thoroughly enjoy their family, the joys and frustrations of home ownership, and life in California "with all that implies." Cynthia works part-

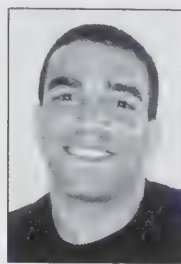
time as a management consultant with Ernst & Young, and, with little time or energy left for hobbies, edits the newsletter for a local parents' group. "A recent visit to Oberlin reminded me how much I miss it, and I am already making plans to attend the reunion in May," she says.

▼ **Nina Dulabaum** completed her doctoral research in education at the Technical University of Berlin. Her dissertation was on the development and assessment of violence prevention training seminars, and entailed working with many diverse target groups in East and West Germany, including business people, teachers, students, and skinheads. Nina is working full time as a consultant in Leipzig, and as an instructor/docent at the Free University of Berlin. She also freelances as a consultant in Germany and Austria and is learning to play the guitar. Address:

Bechsteinweg 4, 10277 Leipzig, Germany. E-mail: DrDuly@aol.com

▼ **David Habenstreit** and his wife, Antoinette Eates, welcomed the birth of their son, Noah Anthony, July 6, 1996. Address: 1606 Myrtle

Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20902. Phone: (301) 681-0177. ▼ **Leonard Jewell** is in his third year at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, and will begin clinical rotations in March 1997. He was a 1995-1996 Albert Schweitzer Fellow, initiating an animal-child relations/education program with at-risk adolescents in Roxbury, Mass. He says he hopes to continue his work with at-risk kids and practice small-animal medicine after his graduation in May 1998. Address: 23 Ruggles St., Westborough, MA 01581. Phone: (508) 388-6263. E-mail: ljewell@opal.tufts.edu



Jewell

▼ **Joel Kadis** is working as an asset and portfolio manager in Boston with Finard and Company, a real estate developer and service firm. He says he is very active as the Oberlin co-admissions coordinator in Boston, and that, after his move two years ago from New York, he loves Boston. Address: 7 Charlotte Rd., Waltham, MA

02154. ▼ **Julie Leven** and **Kenny Blum** announce the birth of their daughter, Mirella, June 2, 1996. Ten weeks after the birth, the family of three flew to Scotland where Julie, a violinist, performed in the Edinburgh Festival. ▼ **Margarita Wuellner** had been working in the mid-Atlantic area as an historic-preservation and cultural-resources-management consultant since graduating with a master's degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia. Looking for a change of scene and greater challenge, she enrolled in the PhD program in art history at UCLA, specializing in modern Central European architecture. She spent the summer studying Czech at Charles University in Prague while doing predoctoral research in the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, and Hungary, funded by the American Council of Learned Societies, and a travel grant from the Center for European and Russian Studies at UCLA. While in Prague, she presented preliminary research on Prague architect Jozef Plecnik at a symposium held at the

Prague College of Studies in Art and Architecture. E-mail: Wuellner@ucla.edu

1984 In July 1996 **Sarah Ferguson**, daughter of Carole Lindner Ferguson '61, married Willie Neuman at the Municipal Building in downtown Brooklyn. **Nick Balaban**, **Joel Roberts**, and **Paul Schwartzman** witnessed the surprise ceremony after being invited earlier that morning. A mariachi band was waiting in the park across the street to serenade the group while they all drank champagne. Sarah and Willie danced, cheered on by a crowd of office workers on their lunch breaks. Sarah is a freelance magazine writer; Willie is a reporter for the *New York Post*. ▼ **Mitchell Glickman** and his wife, Kerri, announce the birth of their first child, Leah, born October 12, 1996. Since graduation they've lived in the Los Angeles area where Mitchell is a composer for television and film, writing for such series as the *Annual Grammy Awards Show*, *Picket Fences*, *Cheers*, and the cable movie,

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for fall issue (September mailing)
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for winter issue (December mailing)
Dec. 1
for spring issue (March mailing)
March 1
for summer issue (June mailing)

1984 CONTINUED

Proudbert. He recently produced the *Bud Shank Sextet Salutes Harold Arlen* recording, and also serves as the executive director for the 72-piece American Jazz Philharmonic. Address: 11473 Patom Dr., Culver City, CA 90230. Phone: (213) 937-4905. E-mail: GlickmanM@aol.com
▼ Lisa Helm and **Todd Thomas** have been living in Reiskirchen, Germany, for the past two years, where Todd is resident baritone at the Stradttheater Giessen. During that time he has also performed with the Sarasota Opera, Lake George Opera, and Theater Basel (Switzerland). The Thomas's second daughter, Gabriela Elizabeth, was born April 1, 1996. Lisa maintains an active teaching and performing schedule in the Giessen area while home-schooling 5-year-old Lydia, who also attends the German

kindergarten in the mornings. They say that either they finally feel at home in their new surroundings, or they are just too busy to notice if they don't. Address: An der Hell 2, D-35447 Reiskirchen, Germany. Phone/fax: 011-49-6408-64799. E-mail: Todlilygab@aol.com
▼ The "ever transient" Christian Meinke, as he calls himself, has moved again, this time leaving "the very Un-Obie Orange County" for Long Beach, Calif. He says he has also changed his marital status. Address: 1717 E. De Soto, Long Beach, CA 90814-2337. Phone: (310) 493-6187. E-mail: cemeinke@ex0.com
▼ Miriam Ricketts Queensen and her attorney husband, Keith, celebrated their fifth anniversary, their son Ronny's first birthday, and daughter Julianne's fourth birthday. Miriam has continued to teach piano part-time while caring for the children.

Address: 3529 Aldrich Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55408. Phone: (612) 825-2688.
▼ Mark Stempler married Chashy Kuvitsky January 22, 1995, and is now the father of Rochel Faiga, born March 16, 1996. Mark is practicing podiatry in Staten Island, N.Y. Mark says, "Now we've really got our hands full with this latest addition!"
▼ Henry Willmore and Aileen Liu announce the arrival of their son, Andrew, born September 10, 1996, who joins his 4-year-old sister Lindsay.

1985 **Freedom Baird** is finishing her MA requirements in interactive cinema at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, where she enjoys the company of Obies Stefan Agamanolis '94 and Mike Massey '83. In 1994 she made an interactive animation piece about family, masquerade and motion

called *The Baird Family Ball*. The work won an award in the 1994 New Voices, New Visions competition, and was released in 1995 by Voyager on a compilation CD-ROM titled *NVNV 1994*. She collaborated last year on creating *A Random Walk Through the 20th Century*, an interactive web documentary which was a finalist in the 1996 National Information Infrastructure Awards. For her thesis project, she is designing and building what she says is "a contraption" called Sashay. Based on choreographic and cinematic technique, the unit allows a participant to use gestures to generate surrealist animations in real time. E-mail: baird@media.mit.edu Url: <http://www.media.mit.edu/~baird>
▼ Charles Burg says that after a whirlwind courtship of five years, he married Jessica Beels June 6, 1992, in New York. Six months later he

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San Francisco: Anita Belofsky '82, 1419 Irving St., #2, San Francisco, CA 94122; Phone: (415) 731-6505 (home), (415) 252-5251 (work), (415) 552-0911 (fax); E-mail: ab@unx.berkeley.edu

Deborah Loft '65, 9 Francis Ave., San Anselmo, CA 94960; Phone: (415) 459-7271 (home), (415) 485-9492 (work), (415) 485-0135 (fax)

Seattle: Connie Brennand '51, 2038 139th Pl. SE, Bellevue, WA 98005; Phone: (206) 746-4324 (home); E-mail: CBrennand@aol.com

South Florida: Barbara Whitman Rostov '61, 12051 S.W. 69 Pl., Miami, FL 33156; Phone: (305) 661-9438 (home)

Washington, D.C.: Pam Hines '74, 10670 Weymuth St. #103, Bethesda, MD 20814; Phone: (301) 530-1162 (home), (202) 326-6509 (work), (202) 289-7562 (fax); E-mail: phines@aaas.org

Westerchester/S. Connecticut: Kiki Eglinton '51, 330 Highbrook Ave., Pelham, NY 10803; Phone: (914) 738-2360 (home)

1985 CONTINUED

left his job as research assistant to the secretary emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution and entered the master's in public policy program at the School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland, College Park. Chuck earned a MPP with a concentration in environmental policy in 1995. Over the years since 1992, Chuck has spent approximately five months in Papua, New Guinea, "working to find alternatives to timber harvesting and mining as a way of conserving their magnificent tropical rain forests and equally spectacular biodiversity," as he says. He now works in Washington, DC, as Conservation International's Melanesia Program Coordinator, with responsibility for programs in Papua, New Guinea, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, and Fiji. The couple's baby girl, Anika, was born June 3, 1995, and "since then, she and our dog Zoe have ruled our lives," he says. Address: 2853 Ontario Rd. NW, Apt. 516, Washington, DC 20009. Phone: (202) 462-0684. E-mail: c.burg@conservation.org ▼ **Charles Courtsal** and Lisa Gwinner

announce the birth of Brendan Rogers on April Fool's Day 1996. "Many sleepless nights with our 'high-needs baby' (P.C. for fussy) have delayed our announcement,"



Courtsal

says Charles. "He is bright, active, and worth every minute!" ▼ **Angela Fenner** plans to spend ten months in Berlin on a Fulbright grant completing her dissertation on contemporary German cinema. Phone: (30) 2476165. E-mail (in Germany): fenn0001@gold.tc.umn.edu ▼ **Laura Hawley** and **Jeanne-Marie Musto**, after 12 years together, "tied the knot," says Laura, at a ceremony in the woods this past August. **Jen Soalt** led the ceremony and Zoe Sherinian '84 played the drums. Bridal attendants were Mela Berkowitz '86, who flew from Japan to be part of the ceremony, and Mimi Melek '84. Others attending were **Bill Dietz**, **Charles Harvey**, **Tracy Holder**, **Lars Klint**, **Rachel Lerner**, **Bethany Schneider** '93,

Christian Huygen '86, and Oberlin English professor **Sandy Zagarell**. **Jeanne-Marie** graduated in May from the Bard Center for the History of the Decorative Arts, specializing in medieval metalwork and the history of bookbinding. **Laura** graduated from the New England School of Acupuncture and received a fellowship for a project aimed at increasing access to acupuncture by linking practitioners to human service agencies. **Laura** has joined a busy practice in Danvers, Mass. Address: 91 Holland St. Somerville, MA 02114. Phone: (617) 628-1145.

▼ **Ruth Hughes** was recently promoted to the position of chief cataloger and systems librarian at the Library Company of Philadelphia, where she has worked since July 1995. One of America's oldest cultural institutions, the library was founded in 1731 by Ben Franklin as the first public library, and functioned as the Library of Congress when Philadelphia was the seat of government. It is now a privately-funded research library with a half-million volumes. **Ruth** and her husband, **Jeff Toner**, have recently moved into their new home.

Address: 210 Loch Alsh Dr., Chalfont, PA 18914. Phone: (215) 996-1265. E-mail: rh25@libertynet.org ▼ **Lauren Jaburg Lese** gave birth to her second son, **Stephen Gil Lese**, on August 22, 1996, and says she is once again on maternity leave from her job as a midwife at a hospital in the Bronx. Address: 91 Central Park West, New York, NY 10023. ▼ **Jessica Meltsner** and **Brian Britt** '86 moved to Virginia last fall, where **Brian** teaches in the religion program at Virginia Tech. Address: 703 Draper Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060. Phone: (540) 961-1270. **Brian's** e-mail: bbbritt@vt.edu and **Jessie's**: 76513.3606@compuserve.com ▼

Rodney Sauer has moved with his wife, **Nancy**, to a 1910 house in Louisville, Colo., where he works for **Nancy's** business, **RDD Consultants Inc.**, and where they raise their two children, **Rowan Mackay** and **Margaret Rose**. **Rodney** formed and directs the **Mont Alto Ragtime and Tango Orchestra**, which recently created a new compiled score for **Buster Keaton's** silent

film, *The Cameraman*, for the 19th Denver International Film Festival. Address: 401 Spruce St., Louisville, CO 80027. E-mail: rasauer@dash.com ▼ **Janine Sternlieb** married **Spencer Sherman** June 16, 1996. She met the **Brandeis** alum when they were on a bike trip in the Canadian Rockies in the summer of 1993. Attending the wedding were ceremony coordinator **Carla Willis** and her husband, **Gregg Baker** '82; **Sharon Barr** (who came all the way from Anchorage, Alaska); **Susan Freeman**; **Patty Pipernos-Schatz**; **Susan Weinstein**; and **Adam Isidore** '84. **Sharon**, both **Susans**, and **Patty** each read one of the seven blessings in the ceremony. "I am blessed with wonderful friends," says **Janine**. Address: 221 Price Ave., Narberth, PA 19072. Phone: (215) 898-7320. E-mail: jssternli@oilot.sas.upenn.edu ▼ **Karen Swenson** married **Richard Holz** August 24, 1996, at the Shaker Lakes Regional Nature Center in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Among those present were **David Klein** and his wife, **Ioulia Loubkina**; **David Greenawalt**; **Heather Angell** with her husband, **Nate**; and **Shane Rock** '84. The couple is living in Columbus where **Karen** is pursuing her PhD in political science at Ohio State, while **Richard** commutes to Antioch to pursue his master's degree in education. Address: 328 20th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201. E-mail: swenson.12@osu.edu

1986 Although **Poppea Dorsam** is completing her doctorate in musical arts at Boston University, she has moved to San Francisco to join her fiancé, **Edward Dagnese**. **Poppea** is teaching cello and freelancing in the Bay area. Address: 3548 18th St. #2, San Francisco, CA 94110. Phone: (415) 864-3095 ▼ **Susan D. Finisdore** served a year with United Cerebral Palsy, working on including people with disabilities in AmeriCorps programs. She has now moved to the for-profit sector as program manager for the **Marriott Foundation for People With Disabilities** in Washington, DC. E-mail: 103213.1725@compuserve.com ▼ **Ann Quinn** and **Steve Ocone** '81 were married June 22, 1996, in Germantown, Md. with several Obies present including **Jack**

Sieber, and his wife, **Nancy Long Sieber** '85; **Jeanne Quinn** '88; **Sandy River**; **Jim Decoster** '80; **Monica Swihart** '81; **Andy Weinberg** '81; and **Laura Taylor** '80. **Ann** says she and **Steve** are doing "important things." ▼ **Karen Strong Roesler** announced the birth of her second child, **Alexander Jackson**, born May 7, 1996. She has been on hiatus from her work since her daughter was born February 1994, and "finds full-time parenting extremely rewarding." She says she is enjoying the warm weather of the Houston area. Address: 13802 Hambleton, Houston, TX 77069. ▼ **Katherine Goodwin Saideman** and her husband, **Stephen** '88, were delighted with a special Valentine's gift February 14, 1996—baby daughter **Jessica**. **Kathy** is a freelance developmental editor; **Steve** continues as assistant professor in the department of political science at Texas Tech University. **Kathy's** address: **Saideman Editorial Services**, P.O. Box 94334, Lubbock, TX 79493-4334. Phone: (806) 797-0370. E-mail: kgsaideman@aol.com **Steve's** e-mail: gfsms@ttacs.ttu.edu ▼ **John Swinton** says that last July 27, he married "the perfect person," **Krista Dienst**. Helping to celebrate the day were Obies **John Baldwin**, **Peter Money**, **Lucinda Walker**, **Kristen Herbert** '88, **John Biebel** '89, and **John Anderson** '89. **John** is in his second year of teaching environmental economics at the University of South Florida at Tampa after defending his PhD thesis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He says "there are far fewer Obies down here than in Madison." Address: 15420 Livingston Ave., #3310, Lutz, FL 33549. Phone: (813) 974-4363. E-mail: jswinton@bsn.usf.edu ▼ **Frank Welsch** completed a Bertelsmann Foundation book publishing internship in Munich last year. He now holds the position of senior production editor at **Jossey-Bass Publishers** in San Francisco. E-mail: fwelsch@jbp.com

1987 **Anne Ballen** has been signing her name **Anne Ballen Ladenson** since October 27, 1996, when she married **Michael Ladenson**. **Oberlinians** attending the outdoor

ceremony were two of her bridesmaids, **Melissa Sawin Donohue** and **Jessica Fogler '88**, and **Andrea Pi-Sunyer**. "I was a bridesmaid for Melissa in June, and there were lots of Obies there, too. Very cool black-tie event. Marriage is great!" says Anne. ▼ **Ellen Molotsky Carpenter** and her husband, Chuck, are surviving their fourth winter in St. Joseph, Minn., where Ellen teaches and coaches cross-country track and field at the College of Saint Benedict. On the second day of classes, Ellen gave birth to Troy Augustus, who joins sister Katie, age 3. E-mail: ecarpenter@csbsju.edu ▼ **Cara Coburn** has enrolled in law school at University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall) after spending five years doing a PhD in chemistry at University of California, San Francisco. Address: 814 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708. E-mail: coburn@uclink4.berkeley.edu ▼ **Jennie Brainard Cunningham**, with her husband, Reid, announce the birth of their daughter, Margo Duncan Cunningham, September 21, 1996. They are also celebrating Jennie's promotion to senior health scientist at TRC Environmental Corp. in Windsor, Conn. Address: 7 Birch Tree Hill Rd., Portland, CT 06480. Phone: (860) 342-1406. ▼ **Amy Hansen** married Bobby Candey in an outdoor ceremony last August with several Oberlin alums attending the celebration. Among them were **Ruth Flanagan**, **Andy Soth**, **David Ehrenstein '88**, the bride's mother, **Anne Jones Hansen '58**; and the groom's brother and sister-in-law, **David Candey** and **Pam Griggs**, both '79. Since graduation from Oberlin, Amy says she has "bopped around at several newspapers, had a fun gig on a children's environmental encyclopedia, and went to the University of Michigan for graduate work, not necessarily in that order." She is now senior writer for the National Science Foundation's publication, *Frontiers*. Bobby is an optics engineer for NASA. Address: 14-T Laurel Hill Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770. ▼ **Tanera Marshall** recently earned an MFA degree at DePauw University's Theatre School, and moved to Chicago where she is acting in theater and television. She also teaches

Alumni in Sevice to Oberlin College (ASOC) From What to Expect from Grad School to Original Choreography: Alum Experts Return to Campus

What is life really like in graduate school? On October 3 three alumni—**Suzanne McCoskey '90**, **Daniel Ash '92**, and **Ron Garcia '95**—returned to campus to answer that question for current Oberlin students.

Suzanne and Ron are both currently enrolled in graduate school, Suzanne at Syracuse University, where she is an economics PhD candidate specializing in urban and regional economics, and Ron at the University of Pittsburgh, where he is studying for a master's degree in Latin American history. Ash, who earned an MA in public policy at the University of Chicago, is director of communications and policy analyst with the Family Resource Coalition. Their panel discussion was part of the Graduate School Fair sponsored by the offices of Career Services and Undergraduate Sponsored Programs.



Stephanie Moore

"Anti-Affirmative Action & African American Women and Men: Where Do We Go From Here?" was the title of the talk delivered October 4 by **Stephanie Moore '82**. General Counsel for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Stephanie graduated with honors from Oberlin with a major in government. She earned a JD degree from Harvard's law school, where was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. Before joining the Commission, she clerked for former Chief Justice A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, was visiting associate professor of law at the Howard University School of Law, and taught at the District of Columbia School of Law. Her visit was sponsored by the African-American Studies Department, Abusua, and Afrikan Heritage House.

Women's labor- and health-issues expert **Peggy Kahn '75** gave a talk—"We Didn't Hire You for Your Children"—about low-paid women and nonstandard hours in the service sector on November 8. Peggy, whose visit was sponsored by the politics department, majored in government and history at Oberlin. She earned an MA



Peggy Kahn

and a PhD at UC Berkeley, and is associate professor of political science at the University of Michigan-Flint, where she also coordinates the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Jeffrey Winters '82, another Oberlin government major, examined how General Suharto's three decades of rule over the Indonesian archipelago are coming to a close in his November 21 talk, "The Unraveling of Suharto's New Order." He explored how such a long period of stability could be marked at its end by so much instability, concluding that Indonesian observers have confused containment with contentment. A former Shansi rep to Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Jeff earned an MA and PhD from Yale and is a member of Northwestern's department of politics. Oberlin's politics department sponsored his visit.

Since graduating from Oberlin with a major in dance, choreographer **Crispin Spaeth '89** has made a name for herself in the Pacific Northwest, where she



Crispin Spaeth (right) and George Lugg perform the ensemble piece, "Hand Over Fist."

The troupe's stay culminated in two performances, featuring "Having Been," a solo piece; "Hand Over Fist," an ensemble piece; and "Broken Day," a work in progress.

—MWB



Jeffrey Winters

is artistic director of the Crispin Spaeth Dance Group, based in Seattle. With the sponsorship of the theater and dance department, she brought her troupe to Oberlin December 3-7 for a teaching residency. Crispin conducted two master classes, one for about 50 advanced students and one for about 25 students of various levels.

1987 CONTINUED

an ongoing workshop entitled "Discovering Language: An Actor's Approach" for high-school and college English classes. Address: 1636 W. Pierce St. #2, Chicago, IL 60622. ▼ **Stephan Rickman** and Natalie Shackelford Rickman '86 are back in the Chicago area after five years in Youngstown, Ohio. Stephan is pas-



Marshall

tor of Grace Lutheran Church in Evanston, while Natalie is in the Master of Arts Teaching program at National-Louis University. They say they enjoy the diversity of a more urban environment, especially for raising their son, Markus, who is now 5, "and just won't stop losing his teeth," says Stephan. Address: 445 Sherman Ave. #301, Evanston, IL 60202. Phone: (847) 859-0839. ▼ **Eva M. Schlesinger** has a story in the premiere issue of *Lesbian Short Fiction*, a crossword puzzle in the Fall 1996 issue of *The Women's Sports*

Connection, and two sports puzzles in the November-December issue of *New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams*. ▼ **Jan VanStavern** has earned her PhD in English from the University of California-Davis, where she is a postdoctoral fellow. Jan is teaching modern American poetry as a visiting assistant professor at Mills College during spring semester. She lives in Berkeley with her two cats, and is dating bronze sculptor Joe Rozewski, "whom she often tries to cheat at chess," she says. Address: 1604 Kains Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702. E-mail: jevanstavrn@ucdavis.edu

Gannon completed a two-week run of *Carmen*, playing the title role, with the Boston-based Longwood Opera Company. In October, she performed the title role in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with the company. To support her "singing habit," as Christine calls it, she works as an account supervisor at Schwartz Communications, Inc., a high-tech public relations firm in Wellesley, Mass. ▼ **Pierre** and **Julia Lin Jalbert** announce the birth of their son, Peter Wei, born March 21, 1996. Last April, Pierre's string quartet enjoyed a successful premiere by the Maia Quartet with violinist **Elizabeth Oakes** at Lincoln Center. He has received two commissions for the year; one from the American Composers Orchestra for a full orchestral work to be premiered at Carnegie Hall on May 11, 1997, and the other for violinist Midori to perform for the Midori Foundation's children's concert at Carnegie Recital Hall on May 8, 1997. The Jalberts have moved to Houston where Pierre began his appointment last July as an assistant professor of composition and music theory at Rice University, Shepherd School of Music. Address: 12202 Meadow Crest Court, Stafford, TX 77477. ▼ **Kris Pranata**, after spending most of his time backstage, is once again performing. He is now dancing with Yesteryears Dancers, a Los Angeles-based, semiprofessional, historical dance troupe. ▼ After teaching high-school French and speech, and advising the yearbook staff for three years in southern Michigan, **Karen Prezioso** headed off to spend a year in Paris, earning her MA in French through Middlebury College. She is spending this year in Troy, N.Y., living and working at the Emma Willard School, "teaching French, of course," she says. She plans to leave the country again in June 1997. Address: The Emma Willard School, 285 Pawling Ave., Troy, NY 12180. E-mail: karenp@emma.troy.ny.us ▼ **Sara Rosenfeld** married Kurt Dassel in New York City last July, with several Oberlinians in attendance. Among them: **Abigail Banker**, **Wendy Weiner Pittman**, **Kellyann Hall**, **Erica Weinthal**, and **David Lieber** '84. The couple

Two New Listservs Help Obies Help Obies

We've created two forums—one concerning health-care issues and another for business issues—in which Oberlin students and alumni can exchange information, ideas, and opinions.

Keep pace with changes in the health-care field, and perhaps help shape them, by subscribing to DOC.



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Psst, you lawyers out there . . .

Would you subscribe to an on-line service for Obies interested in or working in law? If so, please let us know by sending an e-mail to Director of Business Initiatives Perry Boyle at Perry_Boyle@oberlin.edu

1988 **Sharon Goldfarb** is on maternity leave from all her many jobs—as a writer for *Prison Life*, as a teacher at Columbia and at New York University, and as clinical director of the mobile primary care program at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital. Noah Benjamin Glasser arrived May 21, 1996, and Sharon says "I'm having a great time at home with him." ▼ **Brian Hanlon** spent four years in cancer research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan before graduating from SUNY at Buffalo School of Medicine in 1996. He is currently in residency at Brown University School of Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital. Address: 490 Angell St. #203A, Providence, RI 02906. E-mail: Brian_Hanlon@brown.edu ▼ **So Heui Kwan** and **Mike Sweney** were married Oct. 20, 1996 at the Charles Cowles Gallery in Manhattan, where Mike is director. They say they expect to have only two children despite the many chestnuts that were thrown and caught during the Korean ceremony following the exchange of vows. ▼ **Evan Mulvaney** has been working in the natural foods industry for seven years, experimenting with scores of "health-benefiting, nutritional products," he says. He is especially enthusiastic about super blue-green algae which he believes decreases colds and flu and increases energy. Address: 28 Gurney St., Cambridge, MA 02138. Phone: (617) 868-8570. E-mail: 7029JGEAN@umbsky.cc.umb.edu

1989 Last April, Christine

Keeping in touch is just a keystroke away

Are you searching for long-lost Oberlin friends? Itching for the lowdown on latest campus controversy? Need to update your records? Longing for some Oberlin-style conversation?

Keeping in touch with the campus

Oberlin College Alumni Association
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Inquire about long-lost friends, tell the College about your changed address, telephone number, spouse, or partner; or ask about on- and off-campus Oberlin events

<http://www.oberlin.edu/~alumassc/>

Everything you've always wanted to know about the Alumni Association—a history of the association, calendars of regional and on-campus alumni events, ways to contact association staffers, officers, volunteers, and more.

Oberlin Alumni Magazine
alummag@ocvac.cc.oberlin.edu

Tell the editors what you want to see more of in the *OAM*, what you like, and what you don't like. Send class notes, letters to the editor, and ideas for future stories.

http://www.oberlin.edu/~alummag/alum_mag.html

Read the current issue of the *OAM* on-line, or search back issues. Catch a glimpse of upcoming articles.

Of course you can always contact the association and magazine staffs via phone, fax, and U.S. Postal Service mail. See page 2 for the magazine's address, and the full-page "Your Alumni Association" advertisement for the association's.

Electric



No matter what you need, you can find it on the web or via e-mail.

Keeping in touch with each other

oc-alum

An all-purpose e-mail discussion group for Oberlin College folks. Maintained by Andy Rowan '83, oc-alum has no official connection to the College; it's just a group of people who have Oberlin in common—about 200 at the most recent count.

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to:
oc-alum-REQUEST@ocean.rutgers.edu

Or subscribe to the digest version by sending e-mail to:
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In the subject line type the word "subscribe".

In the body of your message type your name and class year.

oc-books

Michael Bastedo '94 hosts this book-discussion group with software help from Andy Rowan.

To subscribe send e-mail to Andy at:
oc-books-request@ocean.rutgers.edu

Format your subject line and the body of your message as you would for oc-alum subscriptions.

Oberlin College Alumni E-mail Directory

A listing of the names, class years, and e-mail addresses of more than 1200 (at last count) Oberlin alumni. Search the directory for people you'd like to contact, or add yourself so others will know how to reach you.

If you want to be included, send an e-mail message to:
alumoffc@ais.alumdev.oberlin.edu

In the subject line type "add to edirectory".

In the body of the message type: your name, class year, and e-mail address. To update an existing entry, follow the same procedures, but in the subject line type "update entry."

There are three ways to access the directory, thanks again to Andy's expert help:

1. Telnet to the College's ALPHA computer: alpha.cc.oberlin.edu
Enter "aluminfo" at the username prompt, and follow the directions on your screen.
2. Send an e-mail message to:
oc-alum-d-request@ocean.rutgers.edu
In the subject line type "archive".
In the body of the message type "send oberlin.directory."
You'll receive the directory in your e-mailbox.
3. Go to the URL at <http://deathstar.rutgers.edu/people/rowan/oc/>
Follow the directions for obtaining a username and password. Peruse the directory in alphabetical or class-year order.

1989 CONTINUED

now lives in Somerville, Mass. E-mail: Exhcood@afaweb.org ▼ **Peter Weishampel** and Carmen Chapin were married June 30, 1996, in Duluth, Minn. Both Peter and Carmen do ecological research in northern Minnesota wetlands for the University of Notre Dame, spending summers in Duluth and winters in South Bend. Their research concerns impacts of global climate change on wetland plant communities and biogeochemistry. Address: 4231 Irish Hills Dr., Apt. 2D, South Bend, IN 46614. E-mail: peter.a.weishampel.1@nd.edu

1990 Stephanie Bullard

says she is working on an assertive community treatment team, delivering mental health services to chronically mentally ill persons in their communities. Otherwise, she says, she is "writing and hanging out." ▼ **Peter Case** had been freelancing for four years when he "fell in love," he says, "in Florida," and on July 6, 1996, he married Sarah Herdegger. They are living in Minneapolis where both are seeking teacher certification for public school through courses at the University of Minnesota. Address: 2580 Kenzie Terrace #312-A, Minneapolis, MN 55418. Phone: (612) 788-1123. E-mail: case0094@tc.umn.edu ▼ **John Dworkin**, a corporate tax lawyer in New York City, says, "Life is very good." He swims two miles each morning, and finds New York exciting—especially the Hamptons. He hopes all "who are on the guest list at hot Soho bars" will contact him. Address: Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, 31st Floor, 399 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022. ▼ **Jeff Fracé** has recently been named director of public affairs for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). He is completing work toward his MFA degree in acting at Columbia, where he will appear in two roles this spring: as Kent in *King Lear* in March, and in May as Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. in an original piece created by Ann Bogart. If any alums wish to attend, drop Jeff a line. Address: 530 Riverside Dr. #1E, New York, NY 10027. Phone: (212) 932-7822. E-mail: jhfl@columbia

.edu ▼ **Lizz Gregg** is living in the "Foggy Bottom" neighborhood of Washington, D.C. and "enjoying all the museums and events in the area," she says. She works at a local service agency for mentally ill, drug-abusing, homeless individuals, and says she really enjoys the work, even though it is often overwhelming and exhausting. Lizz is in a postgraduate training program at Georgetown University, "getting more education." Address: 955 26th St. NW #305, Washington, DC 20037. Phone: (202) 546-1512. ▼ **Leslie Humpling** recently accepted a position as the production manager for the Education Department of the People's Light & Theatre Company in Malvern, Penn., and says she is delighted to be working in professional theatre again after a year's hiatus. After four "very busy years" with the Outreach program of the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, she went home to Charleston to avoid professional burnout. "lots of freelance teaching, tennis-playing, beachcombing, and running, but I found I desperately missed the theatre world," she says. Now she's back in the same vicinity as Rich, her boyfriend of four years, and with Seymour, her cat. Address: c/o People's Light and Theatre Company, 39 Conestoga Road, Malvern, PA 19335-1798. ▼ **Mary Elizabeth Pixley** is in her second year of the PhD program in Communication Studies at Northwestern University where she is concentrating on the impact of the spread of information technology in inland Southeast Asia. She returned from Indonesia last fall, where she had spent the summer backed by a grant doing intensive language training as part of the COTA (Consortium for the Teaching of Indonesians) Advanced Indonesian Abroad program. She says that it was an incredible summer, but that the political situation there is grim. Two people she was close to have since been arrested, as the government continues its crackdown in the aftermath of the army-perpetrated riots of July 27. Mary Elizabeth says she hopes to return, nevertheless, in the spring of 1998. Address: 819 Washington St., Evanston, IL 60202. Phone: (847) 864-1713. E-mail:

mep171@casbah.acns.nwu.edu ▼ **Gregg Weinberg** attended his class reunion in Oberlin last May and bought a fresh Oberlin T-shirt to wear running in the 1996 New York Marathon—his first attempt. He completed the November 4 run in three hours and 25 minutes, with "countless 'Go Oberlin' cheers throughout the race, and especially in Central park, where Obies seemed to be out in full force," he says. Address: 25 W. 87th St., New York, NY 10024. Phone: (212) 305-7023. E-mail: gsw@columbia.edu

1991 Jean Davidson

designed lights and stage-managed performances for Yo-Yo Ma's family concert last October 7-20 for appearances in Tokyo, Osaka, Hanamaki City, and Kyoto. The concert was unusual, she says, because there was a script as well as music. Jean worked on the production with **Sara Stackhouse**, stage director and author of the script. Both Jean and Sara were theater majors at Oberlin. ▼ **Ember Deitz** was happy to see so many of her classmates in Oberlin for their fifth reunion last May. "Those who came know that I am back at Oberlin, serving as the assistant director of gift planning for the College," she says. She is learning a great deal about philanthropy and higher-ed administration. "The best part of my job is the chance to get to know so many



Deitz

Obies from older generations. They are wonderful people with incredible stories to tell, still closely connected to Oberlin, and they care deeply about students and young alumni—it's inspiring." Address: 1819 W. 45th St., up, Cleveland, OH 44102. Phone: (216) 775-8599. E-mail: Ember_Deitz@qmgate.cc.oberlin.edu ▼ **Alan S. Farrell** is a senior counselor at Vocational Foundation Inc.'s Young Fathers program. He counsels young dads ages 16-25 on parenting issues and personal development, and runs a Thursday night workshop for them. He is also a deacon in his church, and teaches Sunday School.

Address: 3856 Bronx Blvd, Apt. #3F, Bronx, NY 10467. Phone (718) 798-1660. ▼ **Abra Karen Nardo** is in Atlanta applying to PhD programs in child clinical psychology while working as a research assistant at a psychology lab at Georgia State University and attempting her "first big solo project." Abby says she is planning her wedding in May 1997 to Hamilton, her boyfriend of four years, and singing with the Atlanta Symphony for her fourth season. Address (until midsummer): 1616 Piedmont Ave., Apt. 6, Atlanta, GA 30324. E-mail: gs0lak@pantha.gsu.edu ▼ **Christopher Wolfe** is working as the concert production assistant at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University after three years at Da Camera of Houston, a presenter of innovative small music performances. Toph was responsible there for all logistical aspects of over 50 events each season. In his new job, he will be involved in over 400 events during the 1996-1997 school year. Address: 4811 Mt. Vernon Apt. 3, Houston, TX 77006. E-mail: ctopher@ruf.rice.edu

1992 Dan Adelman

sends this brief update from Japan: "After completing my master's on the negotiation process at Nagoya University, Japan, last April, I entered Omron Corp., primarily selling neat, high-tech stuff throughout the Pacific Rim." Address: Tokyo-to, Adachi-ku, Takenozuka 2-31-10, Rm. 419, Japan 121. Phone 03-3883-9900. E-mail: adelman@interlink.or.jp ▼ **Noelle Kocot** and **Damon Tomblin** are living in Brooklyn with Kwon Chong '94 and their four cats. Noelle has poems forthcoming in *New American Writing*, *Rain City Review*, and *Passages North*, among other publications. She works at a day-treatment center for autism, doing public relations. Damon recently won third place in the National Federation of Music Clubs Sonata competition, and Kwon is in a ska band and works at Longman Publishers. They say their ultimate plan for next year is to produce and direct a Canadian sitcom about high-schoolers, and live together in Toronto. ▼ **Roger Falcon** left the Czech Republic for Paris to study for a one-year certifi-

cate program at the Institute d' Etudes Politiques, "commonly known as 'Sciences Po'," says Roger. It was in Paris that he met Hélène Vermorel, whom he married December 7, with Jason Thompson '93 as a witness. The couple moved to New York City in late December, where Roger will work toward his master's degree in international relations, and Hélène will look for classes and employment in art therapy. Address: 390 Riverside Dr., Apt. 14G, New York, NY 10025.

1993 **Zeeshan Hasan** read a paper in December 1996 entitled "Realities of Religion and Politics in the U.S." at a conference of the Bangladesh Association for American Studies. The paper examined recent debates over gay marriage and partial-birth abortion in the context of the supposedly secular state. ▼ **Laura Heinlen's** brief message: "I am a second-year med student who is trying very hard not to study." Address: 354 Shiloh St., Cincinnati, OH 45220. E-mail: heinlelc@ucbeh.san.uc.edu ▼

Jennifer L. Reed married Jeffrey W. Coker June 22, 1996, in a ceremony at St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklin, Penn. Obies in attendance included **Alexander Auerbach**, **Kaitlyn Allocco**, **Gloster Aaron**, **Karen Bennett**, **Doug Dibbern**, **Alex Halberstadt**, **Andrew Heath**, **Jenny McKenny**, **Vanessa Olson**, and **Karen Rockwell**. Jennifer finished her M.S. degree in environmental and plant biology at Ohio University in 1995, and is now working for a non-profit legal group in Columbus, Ohio. "It seems I will never get out of this state," she says. Address: 1533 West 7th Ave., Columbus, OH 43212. Phone: (614) 488-8858. E-mail: winston@iwaynet.net ▼

Carlos Walker is working in Costa Rica with the former president and 1987 Nobel Peace laureate, Dr. Oscar Arias, at a foundation Dr. Arias has set up with the prize money. The foundation has a number of projects, ranging from studies of security threats in the region and non-military responses to them, to promoting nonviolent conflict resolution and reconciliation in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and

Guatemala, to an International Code of Conduct governing Arms Transfers, a project which has brought together 13 Nobel Peace laureates, including the Dalai Lama, Mikhail Gorbachev, Lech Walesa, Elie Wiesel, Mairead Maguire, Amnesty International, and the Reverend Desmond Tutu. Address: Fundacion Arias, Apartado 8-6410-1000, San Jose, Costa Rica. E-mail: funpaz@solracsa.co.cr

1994 **Stephan Agamanolis** took the summer off after graduation and travelled across the USA, then on to Greece. Since then he has been a student/research assistant at the MIT Media Laboratory. In February 1996 he completed his master's degree in media arts and sciences, and is "on the PhD track now." He says it still hasn't really hit that he's "not a little undergraduate anymore," and that he really misses Oberlin, especially projecting the OFS movies, and being called "the film guy." Stephan enjoys working with fellow lab Obies Freedom Baird '85 and Mike Massey '83, whom he counts among his new Boston friends. Address: 158 Brookline St., Cambridge, MA 02139. Phone: (617) 864-5993. E-mail: stephan@media.mit.edu; Web page: <http://www.media.mit.edu/~stefan> ▼

Michael Bastedo recently graduated with a master's degree in higher education from Boston College. He is working as a policy analyst with the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and hopes to start a PhD in higher education in fall 1997. E-mail: mbastedo@mecn.mass.edu ▼ **Gabriel Bitá** won the Juilliard School concerto competition and performed in Alice Tully Hall April 2, 1996. He played the *Brabms Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-Flat Major, Op 83* with the Juilliard Orchestra. Oberlinians who attended the performance were John Elder '53, Peter Takács (Gabriel's Conservatory teacher), and Stephen Clapp, '61. ▼ **Meg Carne** says she spent the last two years working in Boston and living with **Zark Strasburger**. She recently moved to the West Coast to begin work on a PhD program in political science at University of California, Berkeley. "Zark, alas, is still in Boston, but I'm working on

that," says Meg. Address: 2814 College Ave. #4, Berkeley, CA 94705. Phone (510) 665-9722. E-mail: mcarne@uclink4.berkeley.edu ▼ **Tanya Lee** taught English for two years in Kunming, China, as a Shansi rep, and is spending the current academic year teaching English in South Korea, after first traveling in India for a month last summer. Address: Myohyang, Apt. 938-1404, Sanbon-Dong 1148, Gunpo-si, Kyunggi-Do, Republic of Korea. Phone: (82) 343-97-8826. ▼ **Luigi Lewin** is an institutional credit analyst at Global Investment Bank in New York. He is spending four months on assignment in Japan, but says that as soon as he returns, he will resume his duties as co-regional coordinator for alumni events in the New York City area, along with Katie Sears '83. ▼ **Elena Perez** has moved to Albuquerque to work as a volunteer and outreach coordinator with Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection. Elena had spent a little more than a year before her western move with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). She

reviewed the book, *Dying from Dioxin*, for New York City's *Satya* magazine, and writes a monthly vegetarian recipe column for *La Cocinita*, an Albuquerque cooking magazine. Address: 1201 Valencia Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110. E-mail: isnortal@gnn.com

1996 **Christopher Weaver** has accepted a position teaching drama at a local elementary school in the Raleigh area. Meantime, he is auditioning for plays and film roles in the area, and performed in a fall 1996 production of *As You Like It*, playing the part of Oliver. Address: 920 Williams St., Raleigh, NC 27610. Phone: (919) 212-1292. ▼ **Stacy Tolchin** is in San Francisco, working as the executive assistant to the director of the International Institute, a nonprofit group assisting immigrants and refugees. She says she is having a great time "with the hordes of other Obies in the Bay area." Address: 336 Duncan St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94131. Phone: (415) 673-1729. E-mail: Int_InstSF@wow.com

Corrections, Additions and Amplifications

to the Fall-Winter 1996 Class Notes:

Pat Masumoto '61, who lives in Hawaii, is still writing, publishing, and lecturing, and is still female. (In the F/W 1996 *OAM*, we inadvertently referred to her as "he".) Her address, with the latest zip code: P.O. Box 6262, Kūhului, HI 96833-9062.

Edith Wiens-Moser '75 reminds us that she is not Elizabeth, and says that, although she is a professor in Dusseldorf, she continues to live outside Munchen at Georg-Schuster-Strasse 10, 82152 Krailling, Germany.

Richard Carlin '78 reports that his correct e-mail address is richard_carlin@prenhall.com

The correct e-mail address for **Becky Liddle** '79 is liddlebj@mail.auburn.edu

Bonnie DeSimone '79 offers a new home phone number, a corrected work phone number, and a new e-mail address. (773) 549-1642 (home), (312) 222-3134 (work), e-mail: BRD58@aol.com

Michelle Strauss Mood '84 notes that as her marriage was February 24, 1991, and that the spring 1996 trip to the Commonwealth of Dominica, reported in fall-winter *OAM*, was to celebrate her fifth wedding anniversary. Phone: (401) 421-9329. E-mail: mmood@providence.edu

Nori Mandell Dove '85, "former resident of Mallory, teacher of Exco Gay Studies, and wearer of lavender high tops," as she reminds her friends, wishes all to know that she is still

a woman, still a lesbian, still married to her partner, Paula—and enjoying their son, Noah Aviel Dove, born at home December '96. Address: 7095 St. Helena Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95404-9695.

The correct home address for **Jose M. Rios** '85 is 1051 East Johnson St., Madison, WI 53703.

David J. McGarvey '87 was distressed to see *OAM* report that he is working on the *commissioning* of chemical weapons, rather than on *decommissioning*. Fortunately, he says, he is not now doing either, but has taken a position as associate professor of chemistry at Prince George's Community College in Maryland.

Josh Rosenberg and **Wendy Gross**, both '89, share this home phone number: (914) 668-0482. Josh's e-mail: jrosenb0@stern.nyu.edu

This is the *real* **James D. Sutherland** '90 who delivered the Montic Block Lecture in Oberlin April 24, 1996. We misread the photo caption, and enlarged the face of the person standing next to James in a candid group snapshot.



Sutherland

Caroline A. Hayes '93 reports that her correct e-mail address is: caroline.hayes@st-cross.ox.ac.uk

Losses in the Oberlin Family



FACULTY **Clifford Alden Cook**, emeritus professor of stringed instruments and music education from 1948 until his retirement in 1969, died February 20, 1997, in Westlake, Ohio. Mr. Cook was one of the original group of music teachers who introduced the Suzuki method of teaching children to play the violin to the United States. He is survived by his wife, Stella, a daughter, and several grandchildren. A Memorial Minute for Mr. Cook will be published in a future issue of the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*.

1918 Enoch Charles Smith died November 6, 1996, in Fortville, Ind., at age 106. He had been a minister for more than 50 years, retiring in 1959. He graduated from Bethany Christian College and earned master's degrees at the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology and the Divinity School of Theology of Chicago. Mr. Smith was a member of First Christian Church of Lakeland, Fla., and a member of the Masonic Lodge. Survivors include a brother, a sister, and a grandson.

1922 Ruth L. Ryan Bennett, 95, died October 14, 1996, in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. She established the first war nursery during WWII, allowing mothers to go to wartime factory jobs. She was a teacher in elementary schools in Cleveland Heights and Lyndhurst, Ohio. Surviving her are two daughters, a son, 12 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

1923 Zoe Demetracopoulou, also known as Zoe Demos, died at 96 on April 16, 1996, in Boston, Mass., following a brief illness. After leaving Oberlin, she worked briefly as a social worker, received her U.S. citizenship, and almost immediately returned to her native Greece, where for many years she was one of two professionally trained social workers. She headed the Greek branch of the International Social Service, and during WWII worked with the Greek Red Cross and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. In 1947 she returned to the United States, earned her master's degree at University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work in 1949, and

worked for social-service agencies in several states before settling in Boston in 1955. Ms. Demos is survived by a brother and 19 nephews and nieces.

Elizabeth Adaline Edwards Maselli died August 4, 1996, in Cromwell, Conn., at age 97. A resident of Cromwell since 1939, she single-handedly restored the town's Old Burying Ground, obtaining funds from the Veterans Administration to place white memorial headstones on the graves of 26 Revolutionary and Civil War veterans. In the 1940s she re-established the town's kindergarten program and was president of the local PTA. Mrs. Maselli has received several civic awards and was appointed town historian in 1985. Surviving her are a brother, a daughter, and five grandchildren.

1925 Cornelia Adelaide Chamberlain Weidman died October 5, 1996, at 94, while visiting her granddaughter in Watertown, N.Y. She taught high school for several years before her marriage, and was active in church, civic and bridge clubs in Binghamton, N.Y., where she made her home until moving to Vestal in 1993. Surviving her are a daughter, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1926 William Jameson Butzberger died April 21, 1996, in West Palm Beach, Fla., at age 91. Following brief careers as a junior high-school teacher, flying cadet, and clerk, he joined General Motors Acceptance Corporation in 1930 as director of legal analysis. Mr. Butzberger earned a LLB degree at Cleveland-Marshall College in 1943 and retired from GMAC in 1965. Among his survivors are his wife, Doris Pease Butzberger '28; a son, Robert '54; a daughter; five grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

1927 Elizabeth Bacon Bromund, 90, died December 6, 1996, in Cleveland. A secretary and recorder at the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology in the 1930s, Mrs. Bromund lived in Oberlin until 1989. She enjoyed traveling with her husband, Werner '35, and spending summers at their home in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Besides her husband, she is survived by a son, Richard '62, two grandchildren, and a sister.

Catherine Robbins Case Campbell, age 91, died January 3, 1996, in San Francisco where she had lived since 1961. Mrs. Campbell earned a PhD degree in geology at Radcliffe-Harvard and most recently worked for the U.S. Geologic Survey in Menlo Park, Calif., where she was the technical reports unit premier editor, a position from which she retired in 1990. She worked from 1947 to 1961 at the Naval Ordnance Test Station in Pasadena, Calif., as chief editor for the underwater department. Predeceased by her husband of 48 years, she is survived by her son, two grandchildren, two great-granddaughters, a niece, and a nephew.

1930 Marguerite Sabin Clark Hahn, 88, died at her home in Berlin Heights, Ohio, November 20, 1996. For the first two years after her graduation, she taught Latin and English at Collins High School in Ohio. After her marriage, she became a homemaker and was active in her community. Predeceased by her husband, Charles '32, her survivors include a daughter, three sons, seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two sisters, including Catherine Totzke '32.

1931 Nellie Constance Allen Beaty died September 31, 1996, in Oakland, Calif., at 85. After earning a master's degree in music education at the University of Michigan, she taught piano and organ at Bishop College, Barber Scotia Junior College for Girls, Livingstone College, and Prairie View College before moving to Berkeley. There she taught in the public schools and maintained a private piano studio until her retirement. Surviving her are her brother, William Allen '28; a nephew; and several cousins.

Mary Louise Miller died in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 10, 1996, at age 86. She taught Latin and English in Ohio public schools before becoming a homemaker. Survivors include a son, a daughter, and a grandson.

1932 Mary Faith Barber Barlow died after a long illness October 4, 1996, in Hudson, Ohio. She was 86. She taught in several Ohio schools before her marriage to Harold Barlow, who survives her, and later taught at Howard University and a junior high school in Akron, Ohio. In 1969 she retired from teaching and began an antique business, which she and her husband operated until 1995. An authority on antiques, she taught an evening course at Akron University and lectured throughout the area. She was preceded in death by her brother, Leland Barber '25. Besides her husband, she is survived by a son, a daughter, four nephews, and three grandchildren.

Percy Oral Griffith, known to Oberlin friends as Jerry, died Aug. 15, 1996, in Cincinnati at age 85. He taught languages in Ohio and New Jersey schools, and then served as a district sales manager for F. E. Compton & Co., and for the publishers of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Predeceased by his wife, Rosa Palm Griffith '32, he is survived by two sons, including Malcolm '58; a daughter, Constance Janssen '60; two grandchildren; a great-grandchild; three sisters and a brother.

1934 Pauline Burgess Rohm Goger, 82, died October 30, 1996, in Clinton, Ohio. She was a physician at Bellevue Hospital for 10 years, and in 1952 became the first female physician employed by the Hunterdon Medical Center in Raritan Township, N.J. Mrs. Goger held teaching positions at Wellesley and Simmons colleges, the universities

BENJAMIN A. CUSTER '31, 1912–1997

Library of Congress Official

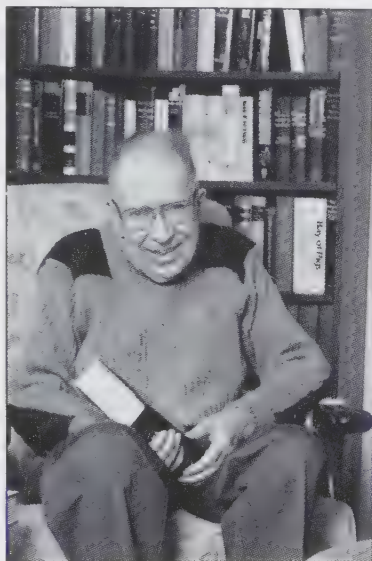
By Mavis Clark

Benjamin A. Custer died of pneumonia at his Kendal at Oberlin home January 20, 1997, at 85. He retired in 1980 from the Library of Congress as chief of the Decimal Classification system, used for the organization of information by an estimated 20,000 libraries in 135 countries. He had lived in the Washington, D.C., area for nearly 40 years before moving to Oberlin in 1993.

A native of Lima, Ohio, Mr. Custer earned his master's degree in library science at Case Western Reserve University in 1932, and became a librarian and information specialist at the New York Public Library from 1932-1939. He later headed the catalog department at the University of California at Los Angeles from 1939-1943. During World War II, he was a cryptanalyst for the Army Signal Corps at Arlington Hall. He first worked at the Library of Congress from 1944-1946 as manager of the Slavic Cataloging Project. He spent the next decade as processing director for the Detroit Public Library before returning to the Library of Congress, where he remained until his retirement.

In Washington, Mr. Custer edited the Dewey Decimal Classification, a system of organizing information that underwent tremendous growth and development in libraries around the world during his 24-year tenure. He was responsible for four full editions of the DDC, and four of the abridged editions. In 1979, he was presented with the library's Distinguished Service Award, and also received the American Library Association's Melvil Dewey Award. He was one of six founders of the Resources and Technical Services Division of the American Library Association. The 21st edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification was dedicated to Mr. Custer with note of his efforts to expand the use and usefulness of the Classification: "Reaching out to library organizations and users throughout the world, he turned the development of the Dewey Decimal Classification into a worldwide cooperative adventure."

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SHERLOCK



After his retirement and the move to Kendal at Oberlin, where the sign on his front door read "Custers' Last Stand," he was active in numerous professional organizations, and an enthusiastic volunteer worker for many educational, cultural, and charitable organizations, most notably Oberlin College. He established two charitable remainder trusts—\$500,000 trust for the Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center, and also a condominium to establish an endowed \$150,000 scholarship fund.

A memorial recital was held in Finney Chapel March 11, 1997, in celebration of Mr. Custer's life. He, himself, wrote the following part of the service:

Sometime around 1930, when he was a student at Oberlin College, Ben Custer suddenly realized, somewhat to his dismay at first, that he no longer believed in a supreme being, that, in fact, it was mankind who had created God, rather than the reverse. He remained for the rest of his life an atheist, though he always respected other people's beliefs, and was quite interested in the history and sociology of religion. His religion was without doubt what has been called secular humanism. His belief was in the unconquerable spirit of mankind, as exemplified by Shakespeare, Michelangelo, Beethoven, Galileo, by Marie Curie, Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela. He often said, "A world that has produced a Mozart is a world that is worth preserving."

Mr. Custer had asked that after these words were read, they be followed by a performance of Franz Schubert's Quintet in C Major, Opus 162, Deutsch 956—"Music," he said, "not to eat by, study by, dream by, or make love by, but music to die by."

Oberlin Conservatory of Music students Sarah Shellman and Alisa Regelin, violins, Ari Reeves, viola, and Rebekah Scott and Jennifer Vaughn, cellos, performed the work, just as he had wished. Mr. Custer donated his body to Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

of Pennsylvania and Hawaii, Rutgers, the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and the NYU College of Medicine. She was one of 30 doctors specializing in obstetrics and gynecology to tour China in 1980, visiting communes, hospitals, medical schools, and day-care centers. Her master's degree from Wellesley and doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania were in medical genetics. She earned her medical degree at NYU. Mrs. Goger was listed in *Who's Who in the East*, *American Men and Women of Science*, and *Who's Who of American Women*. Preceded in death by her husband, she is survived by two sisters, including Vanny Haut '40, and a niece.

1935 Marion Chipman Beckwith died November 9, 1996, in Durham, N.H., at 83 from injuries sustained in a car accident. During her 43 years of teaching physical education at the University of New Hampshire, she introduced courses in manners, sex education, and yoga. During WWII she organized the country's first military training program for women, which was featured in the January 1943 edition of *Life* magazine. She was the first faculty member on the UNH board of trustees, was president of the Eastern Association of Physical Education for College Women, and was inducted into the UNH Wildcat Winner Circle Hall of Fame. She is survived by two sisters, seven nieces, and several nephews.

1937 Frank Chapman Van Cleef died July 17, 1996, in Ormond Beach, Fla., at age 82. He was a descendant of Lorain County, Ohio, pioneers, and members of his family have attended Oberlin in every decade except one since 1838. Ordained in 1940, he served Congregational churches in Connecticut and Massachusetts for 25 years, and was a caseworker for the Connecticut State Welfare Department for 12 years, retiring in 1976. Preceded in death by his wife, Joy Henderson Van Cleef '35, he is survived by three sons, among them Frank Van Cleef III '60.

1938 Charles Jackson Meek, died June 22, 1996, in Tucson, Ariz., at 80. Mr. Meek was instrumental-music director at Georgia State and Shurtleff colleges before returning to Oberlin as an instructor in the department of music education from 1941 to 1943. He was a shipfitter and welder for a short time, becoming an industrial engineer for the U.S. Steel Corporation, a position he held for 33 years. An amateur violinist and conductor, he authored *Conducting Made Easy—for Directors of Amateur Musical Organizations*. He was a longtime member of the Masonic Lodge. Among the survivors are four sons, including Charles '63; two daughters; 19 grandchildren; a sister, Jane Egan '39; and nieces and nephews.

1939 Evelyn Maxine Smith Logan died November 19, 1996, in Norwalk, Ohio, at 82 after

1939 CONTINUED

an extended illness. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in music at Oberlin, and then taught piano privately in Norwalk for more than 50 years. Mrs. Logan was also a real-estate sales representative and curator of fine china and glass for the Firelands Museum in Norwalk. Her husband, Bernard, a brother, and several cousins, nieces, and nephews survive her.

Helen Louise "Pete" Petrie Staddon, 78, died July 14, 1996, in Indianapolis. Mrs. Staddon taught music at schools in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Indiana for 25 years, retiring in 1983. Nine years before retiring, she earned an MA in music at Ball State University. Survivors include her husband Arthur, a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

1940 George Dana Johnson, 78, died October 10, 1996, in Manhattan, Kan. He earned the bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry at Oberlin, and a PhD at the University of Michigan. He was an instructor and later assistant professor at Indiana University from 1946 until 1952, when he joined the faculty at Kansas State University. He retired in 1983. Mr. Johnson coauthored many professional publications, and was a visiting professor at the University of Sydney in Australia. He also worked at the National Research Council of Canada. He is survived by his wife, Lois; a daughter; a son; and two sisters, Portia Sprigg '41 and Priscilla Lussmyer '48.

1941 Charles Laconia Dinkins died November 1, 1996, at 76 in Memphis, Tenn. He was director of education and assistant secretary of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.'s Sunday School Publishing Board, and also served as interim pastor and pastor of First Baptist Church of East Nashville. In 1959 he assumed the presidency of Owen College of Memphis and, after the merger of Owen and LeMoyne colleges, became director of development for LeMoyne-Owen College until his retirement in 1981. He then became urban affairs officer for the National Bank of Commerce. He served as interim pastor and, later, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lauderdale, Tenn., from 1968 to 1994, and was a member of numerous civic, state, and national organizations including the Red Cross, the NAACP, and the United Way. Surviving him are his wife, Grace; three sons; two step-daughters; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; a sister, Pauline Anderson '44; a nephew; and several cousins, including Robert Turpin '43.

Robert Gray Gunderson died of heart failure November 24, 1996, in Greenbrae, Calif. He was 81. After earning a BS degree at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he was appointed instructor in speech at Oberlin, where he completed a master's degree in American history in 1941. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned in 1946 to Oberlin,

where he taught for 12 years before joining the speech faculty at Indiana University. During his 27 years at IU he helped create a doctoral program in the Department of Speech and Theater, chaired and headed several programs, and received the Distinguished Teaching Award from the IU Student Alumni Association in 1985. Professional accolades include a NEH senior fellowship and the Speech Communication Association Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by his professional peers. He was the author of numerous articles and two books. Preceded in death by his wife, he is survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

Donald La Moyne Powers, 83, died February 10, 1996, in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He was pastor of Bethany Church of Christ for 40 years; his ordination and call to Bethany immediately followed his graduation from Oberlin's Graduate School of Theology. While at Bethany, he continued to serve many other area churches as interim pastor and played a key role in the formation of the United Church of Christ. He earned doctor of divinity degrees at Defiance and Heidelberg colleges, served on the board of trustees of Heidelberg, was president of the Fall Ministerial Association, and was involved with the local YMCA. He is survived by his wife, two sons, four grandchildren, and a sister.

1942 Mary Spencer Winship Landgrebe, 76, died November 21, 1996, in Richmond Heights, Ohio. After earning a degree in library science at Western Reserve University, she worked as a librarian in the Cleveland suburbs before becoming a homemaker. She later volunteered for the local Red Cross and PTA organizations. Among the survivors are a daughter, a son, a grandson, and a brother, William Winship '37.

Elizabeth "Bee" Ruth Cameron Van Iderstine, 76, died July 23, 1996, in Youngstown, Ohio. She worked briefly as a draftsman before becoming a homemaker. She returned to the work force as secretary and teacher, eventually becoming director of a Youngstown-area nursery school. She later served as a church organist, was pianist and song leader for the local Kiwanis Club for nearly 40 years, and created crossword puzzles for the Connecticut-based Penny Press. In the 1960s she was president of the Youngstown Women's Club and the Youngstown Oberlin Alumni Club. Predeceased by her husband, A. Prentice '42, she is survived by a son and a daughter.

1943 Marjorie Auster died of congestive heart failure June 14, 1996, in Southampton, N.Y., at 74. After earning her master's degree in physical education at Pennsylvania State University, she spent 32 years as coach of the Southampton High School girls' field hockey and basketball teams, and led her students to 28 straight years of undefeated seasons and a combined team total of 132 undefeated sea-

sons. Known to many students as "Ma," she became the first woman to receive the Coach of the Year award from the National High School Athletic Coaches Association, and was the first woman inducted into the Suffolk Hall of Fame. She was involved in the United States Field Hockey Association as a player, a coach, and an umpire, and served as an umpire in the 1971 and 1975 World Field Hockey Tournaments in New Zealand and Scotland. She is survived by a sister.

1946 Gloria A. Borie Dyer, 73, died October 12, 1996, in Elyria, Ohio, after a short illness. She was a legal secretary for the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and for Western Union for several years. A former powder-puff stock-car track champion at Ohio's Lorain County Speedway, Mrs. Dyer raced stock cars throughout Ohio in the '50s. Surviving her are her husband, Ernest, a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and three sisters.

Elisabeth Alice Rowell Hildebrand, 71, died June 29, 1996, in Dayton, Ohio. She was a member of the Christian Science Church of Centerville, Ohio, and of the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. Among her survivors are her husband of 50 years, Herbert; a son; three daughters; nine grandchildren; a brother, and a sister.

Dorothy Ann McCulloch Reich died of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) June 5, 1996, in Portland, Ore. She was an elementary- and kindergarten-school teacher in public and private schools in New York, California, Ohio, and North Dakota for 20 years, and was responsible for organizing the first kindergarten in Langdon, N.D. She was later a bookseller at an Episcopal bookstore and for Majors Medical Books, and also worked for J.C. Penney Company's regional credit office in Portland. Mrs. Reich is survived by her husband, Karl, and four children.

1947 Theodore Curtis Daniels died May 5, 1996, in Gettysburg, Pa., at 71. After serving as an ensign in the U.S. Navy during WWII, he earned his Oberlin BA in physics and a doctorate in physics from Syracuse University in 1961. He joined Gettysburg College in 1954, retiring as professor of physics in 1987. A member of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers, his primary research had been in the field of technology. Surviving him are his wife; three sons; a daughter, Anne '84; two grandchildren; two brothers, including David '55; a sister, Sarah Dike '52; nieces and nephews, and several cousins, including Elizabeth Menzi '48 and Donald Menzi '60.

1949 Dorothy Vera Van Slyck Barnes Whitaker died December 12, 1995, in New Haven, Conn., at 68, after a massive stroke. Following her marriage to Thomas Whitaker '49, who survives

Memorial Minute

BARRY MCGILL

1924–1996

Emeritus Professor of History

By Geoffrey Blodgett '53

Barry McGill died in Oberlin on 7 September last fall after 38 years as an active member of the Oberlin College faculty. Barry spent his boyhood in the city where he was born in 1924, New Rochelle, New York. Early on, he showed a bent for tracking what was going on in the larger world outside New Rochelle, and a desire to understand it. Aspects of that world in the 1930s were ugly and scary, but he wanted the facts in order to calculate the outcomes. Thus the following letter to Benito Mussolini in the spring of 1935:

Dear Mr. Mussolini:

I know you are very busy now but I hope you are able to answer this letter. A boy at the school I go to bet me that your troops in Africa would lose against the Abyssinians in the war between Italy and Abyssinia. I would like you to send me an account of all the battles that have been fought and the side that won. I am only ten years old and you already have my address. [15 Park Avenue, New Rochelle, NY, United States of America.]

Yours truly,
Barry McGill

P.S. I would like a reply before school closes.
School closes June 28, 1935.

In other words, no extensions, no incompletes. For Barry, those were lifetime expectations. Mussolini evidently did not measure up.

Barry's undergraduate career at Williams College was interrupted by the Second World War and three years in the U.S. Army. He returned from the war to graduate from Williams in 1947—summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, class valedictorian. An MA from Oxford followed that, and then a Harvard PhD in 1953. His thesis was a study of British parliamentary politics from 1865 through the 1880s, the years of the Disraeli-Gladstone rivalry.

Barry began his long career at Oberlin as teacher of British and European history in 1952. Two years later he married another faculty newcomer, Barbara Bunce, a sparkling young chemistry instructor. Meanwhile the atmosphere of his classroom became legendary. Tall, lean, austere, mixing Edwardian elegance with lightning intellect and lashing wit, he gathered a surprised audience of quiet, awestruck students who later

testified that his impress on them was deep and permanent. After 10 years a colleague wrote about Barry this way: "When he first came to Oberlin, students were afraid to get near him.

He has definitely mellowed. He [still] terrorizes some students, but he also helps them, and he gets results." The results showed among other ways in the growing number of honors students he mentored, and in the several Senior Assembly addresses that the senior class voted to ask him to deliver across the 1960s.

Barry used his sabbatical leaves, including a research status appointment in 1965–66, to pursue work in London

on what turned out to be his lifelong specialty, British parliamentary history from the 1860s through the 1920s. His published writing was modest in quantity, deeply quarried, appearing in journals of impeccable address. A fellow researcher commented on Barry's scholarship: "He is more of an historian than a social scientist. He is likely to get rather thoroughly acquainted with his materials before he decides what questions it can be used to answer." His answers when they came were very hard to quarrel with.

Barry believed fervently in what he and the rest of the faculty were doing. As baby-boomers began to hit the campuses around 1960, and state university systems, community colleges and advanced placement programs expanded to meet the boomers' needs, many wondered how schools like Oberlin would fare in the new academic environment. Barry confessed no doubts. "Our task," he wrote for the *Oberlin Review*, "is imparting an education of high quality to a comparatively small number. Obviously this is expensive. The question is whether it is worth it. My answer is 'Yes. Now more than ever.'"

Barry was not always sure that the people in Cox Administration Building toed the line with the faculty in this ongoing educational crisis. Like most faculty members of his vintage, he was a stern defender of the Finney Compact, and when he thought that presidents and trustees

continued on page 40



her, she taught piano, was a homemaker, and assisted her husband's research. She returned to school, obtaining an MS in gerontological counseling from Southern Connecticut State University in 1984, after which she served as program coordinator at the East Shore Regional Adult Day Care Center in Branford, Conn. Mrs. Whitaker played organ for and directed the choir at St. John's Episcopal Church in Guilford, Conn. Besides her husband, she is survived by four children, including Thomas '75 and Sarah '78; a grandchild; and a sister.

Charles David Windle, 70, died September 12, 1996, in Silver Spring, Md. He earned a PhD at Columbia University and worked for the National Institute of Mental Health for 26 years, retiring in 1994 as director of the Office of Rural Mental Health Research. His research and articles were published in several scholarly journals, and he served as a reviewer for a number of publications. Mr. Windle's honors include the NIMH director's award, the administrator's award for meritorious achievement from the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, and the Harold M. Hildreth Award for public service from the American Psychological Association, of which he was a fellow. He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Holly '75; a son; a step-son; four step-grandchildren; and a sister.

1950 Richard Ralston Hill, 69, died October 19, 1996, in New York City. He was born in Oberlin to a family whose ancestors were among the town's original settlers. As an early indicator of his future career as an actor, in 1933, when he was only 6, he appeared in the college's centennial pageant as one of Peter Pindar Pease's children. Fifty years later, at Oberlin's sesquicentennial, he was ready to play Pease, the father. Mr. Hill launched his professional acting career in 1953, after studying at New York's American Theatre Wing School. He starred in several major Broadway productions including *Carousel*, *The Streets of New York*, and *Woman of the Year*. He played a lead role in both the stage and movie versions of *1776*, and performed in the world premiere of the Deems Taylor opera, *The Dragon*. Mr. Hill also toured with singer Frances Langford, Martyn Green's Gilbert and Sullivan Company, the National Repertory Theater, and, as a member of a repertory group, with the Virginia City Players of Montana. Specializing in character roles and comedy, he also acted in stock and dinner theaters around the country. Survivors include a niece, a nephew, and a cousin.

John Howard Whitcomb died in Pensacola, Fla., November 20, 1996, at 70 of complications from lung-cancer surgery. He had practiced pediatric medicine in Pensacola for nearly 40 years. Raised in India as the son of medical missionaries, he came to the United States at 18 and served in the U.S. Navy during WWII before entering Oberlin. After grad-

1950 CONTINUED

uating from Harvard Medical School in 1953, he and his wife, Dorothy Bradley Whitcomb '50, remained in the Boston area while he trained at Children's Medical Center, where he later became chief resident. He began private practice in Pensacola in 1957, helping to found the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, where he was medical director for 20 years. Through his efforts, the Center is now a regional hospital for all children, including those of families unable to pay for treatment. Besides his wife, he is survived by four children and seven grandchildren.

1951 Sidney Charles Ward, 66, died February 6, 1996, in Winter Park, Fla. After earning a BS degree at Lawrence College and a LLB at the University of Florida, he was a practicing attorney in Orlando, Fla. for 23 years. He then taught international law and other law courses at the International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan, before returning to the States. He is survived by his wife, Sarah, five children, and 14 grandchildren.

Bernice Alice Osmola Zelditch died May 10, 1996, in Stanford, Calif., at 67 following an asthma-induced heart attack. She earned her master's degree in English at Stanford, and spent a year in Stanford's Creative Writing Program. From 1974 to 1976 she supervised community-college teaching at Stanford's School of Education. Mrs. Zelditch published poetry, short stories, articles in children's literature, and wrote a libretto for a children's opera. Surviving is her husband, Morris '51; a daughter; a son; two grandsons; and a sister, Delores Osmola McColm '55.

1952 Elizabeth Moore Wells died suddenly at her home September 22, 1996, in Ithaca, N.Y., at age 65. For many years she taught students of voice and piano in her home, and substituted as a teacher in the Ithaca public schools. Mrs. Wells was in her second year as president of the Ithaca Music Club, and had received national accolades for her research on Ithaca's female composers. On the day of her death she had been scheduled to play selections by Chopin, Mendelssohn, and Schumann for the club. She is survived by two daughters, a son, a grandson, two brothers, and two sisters.

1954 Norman S. Kerr, 62, died March 26, 1996, in St. Paul, Minn. In 1958, after earning a PhD degree at Northwestern University, he began a 37-year tenure as professor of genetics and cell biology at the University of Minnesota, while serving briefly as assistant dean and director of undergraduate studies. He is best known for his work with slime mold, and his pioneering observations on the single-celled organisms gained him international recognition. He wrote lab manuals for general and animal biology and computer programs for classroom use. A member of several professional organi-

zations, he received the Stanley Dagley Teaching Award in 1995. Preceded in death by his father, Kathel Kerr '29, he is survived by his wife, Sylvia; a daughter; a son; and a brother, K. Austin Kerr '59.

1956 Jean Ruth Harris Naparsteck, 60, died Aug. 3, 1996, in New York City. She worked as an interior designer, briefly in Chicago, and then in New York City, for more than 30 years, holding offices in several professional organizations. Among her survivors are her husband and her mother.

1957 Donald Raymond Bernhardt, 62, died after a long illness October 13, 1996, in Mansfield, Ohio, where he had been a lifelong resident. He taught violin and viola for 30 years in the Mansfield and Ashland, Ohio, public schools. A member of the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra since 1949, he was concertmaster from 1984 to 1991. He also was concertmaster of the Ashland Symphony Orchestra from 1980 to 1996 and a member of several other orchestras and chamber groups. Surviving him are his wife, Carol Hunter Bernhardt '64; two daughters, including Melanie '85; 6 brothers; and six sisters.

1959 Miyako Matsuki, 57, died of cancer January 28, 1997, at home in Gettysburg, Pa. An instructor in religion at Gettysburg College, she was educated in several religions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity, and was fluent in modern and classical Japanese, English, French, Hebrew, Sanscrit, and classical Greek. She earned her master's degree at Yale Divinity School, and was completing her dissertation for a PhD in theology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is survived by three children.

1967 John Paul Freeman died of lung cancer September 20, 1996, in Fort Worth, Tex., at 51. He taught for 11 years at Texas Christian University as associate professor of TV production, broadcast writing, and film history, and chaired the department from 1991 to 1996. He also curated the university's G. P. Tandy Memorial Film Library. From 1972 to 1977, he was director of photography for Visual Educations Corp. in Princeton Junction, N.J. Mr. Freeman earned a degree in communications and a PhD in mass communications at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Surviving him are his wife, Anne Chenicek Freeman '67; a son; and a sister.

1975 Christine L. Lyon, age 43, committed suicide April 18, 1996. She lived in New York City for 20 years, during which time she worked for a publishing house, the United States Government, the bursar's office of Columbia University, and most recently, the Pfizer Drug Company. She is survived by her mother, Jean Nicholson Lyon '45; a brother; a sister; and an uncle, Howard Nicholson '42. Her father, Donald Lyon '46, preceded her in death.

MCGILL, continued from page 39

were not living up to the compact, he said so. From the back bench in an open faculty meeting he once instructed President Carr to reflect on the words of political philosopher Edmund Burke: "It is not what a lawyer tells me I may do, but what justice tells me I ought to do." As one of the youngsters on the faculty at the time, I recall that thrusts like that even intimidated some of us.

Barry served as history department chair from 1966 to 1969, and again in 1986, and for years he was a regular on the EPPC, always precise, generally diplomatic. But this sort of work did not arouse him very much. What he enjoyed most, I believe, was explaining to students what they did not yet know about the past, and making sure the explanations stuck. His teaching was rigorous and demanding. It was also very traditional. It had to do mostly with the politics of nations—prime ministers and chancellors, elections, legislation, diplomacy and war. Midway through his career, the new social history arrived in force, and Barry discovered, along with many other teachers in the field, that what he thought were the most important questions to answer about the past were no longer being widely asked. One of Barry's students acknowledged in a course evaluation that his lectures about Britain and the nations of the European continent were arresting and provocative, but added, "I'd like to know more about those countries not busy initiating wars or being conquered. What was everybody else doing?"

"What was everybody else doing?" Barry and fellow historians of his vintage everywhere were destined to spend the rest of their careers doctoring their lectures to answer that question. But he never lost the stubborn belief that what people like the great wartime leader Winston Churchill did mattered more than what most other folks in the world were doing. Churchill's life was the subject of the last new course that Barry put together and taught across the 1980s.

I suspect that no one on the Oberlin faculty today handles the classroom and its occupants quite the way he did. That way might not be possible any more. In any event, through no fault of their own, today's college students, including its history majors, are unlikely to have heard very much about Barry McGill. For a long generation of Oberlin alumni, he remains unforgettable.

GEOFFREY BLODGETT is Robert S. Danforth Professor of History at Oberlin College. This Memorial Minute was adopted by the General Faculty February 18, 1997.

Issued

An Explanation for Chaos

By JULIE SCHUMACHER '81
Soho Press, Inc., 1997

"I never wanted journalism with its pretense of objective reality; I wanted lies which, when molded carefully, painstakingly, opened up the truth like a perfect secret," says the author. Schumacher has continued her search for the perfect lie in her first collection of short stories, many previously published in *Atlantic Monthly* and *California Quarterly*, among others. Commended for her thoughtful and imaginative style, Schumacher frequently confronts the theme of finding meaning in contemporary family life, often through the eyes of preteen girls or young women. The collection includes "Reunion," written as an assignment for an Oberlin class. A professor at the University of Minnesota, the author was a PEN/Hemingway finalist for her first novel, *The Body is Water*.

Strangers at Home

EDITED BY CAROLYN DOGGETT SMITH '65
Aletbeia Publications, 1996

Collected for global nomads and individuals raising families abroad, *Strangers at Home* offers a multiplicity of perspectives on the effects of living overseas and coming home to a country that seems more foreign than the one left behind. Including essays written by individuals who have conducted social-scientific studies of families living between cultures or who have themselves raised children overseas, it is particularly useful for parents wanting to help children—especially teenagers—adjust and fit in when returning to a foreign "home." Smith, a freelance editor/writer and book publisher in New York City, also edited *The Absentee American: Repatriates' Perspectives on America*.

Walter Benjamin and the Bible

By BRIAN BRITT '86

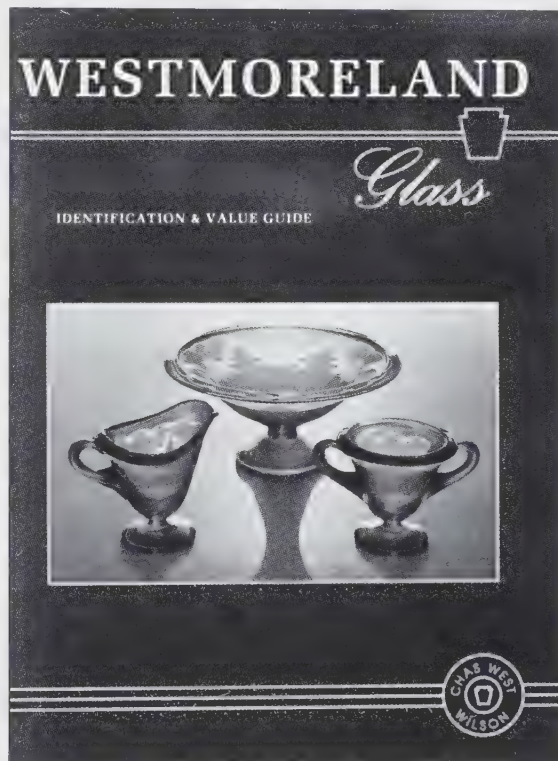
Continuum Publishing Company, 1997

There are two polarized concepts of sacred texts: the internalist view, which argues that a text is sacred due to its inherent features, and the externalist view, which claims a text is sacred due to the historical and social activity it spawns. The Jewish philosopher Walter Benjamin melded these views, arguing that the two notions are not mutually exclusive. Also a student of semantics, Benjamin found that sacred texts link the "pure language" of the past, which strictly denoted the object described, and the language of the present, which is a degraded condition. Britt both provides a lucid introduction to Benjamin's work and a new vision of his theology and examines his concept of the importance of pure language. Britt, assistant professor of religion at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, has written for *The Journal of Religion, Literature and Theology*, and *The Nation*.

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Westmoreland Glass: Identification and Value Guide

By CHARLES WEST WILSON '59
Collector Books, 1996

This volume is the definitive work on Westmoreland glass, written by a man who has a personal connection to the subject—the grandson of Charles Howard West. Grandfather West spent 50 years as owner and president of the Westmoreland Glass Co., although Wilson rarely heard any mention of the business while he was growing up. Perhaps this is why his curiosity was piqued sufficiently to begin the research which took several years to complete. "Wilson does his forebearer proud," says *Antique Collector* magazine in a recent review. "The book is crammed with historical information, documentary photographs and color illustrations, as well as analyses of individual pieces." The 336-page reference is profusely illus-

trated with more than 600 original photographs, from the first cut-and-decorated pieces to the milk glass later mass-produced in the 1940s and 1950s. The book begins with an extensive history of the glass company and its founders, then groups the glass by type: cut crystal or black glass, followed by complexity within the groupings. The examples of opaque glass are familiar to most of us—the "baker's dozen" plates, the animal-covered dishes, various mustard containers, the Rookwood steins, and others. Wilson provides 24 distinctive ways for collectors to identify Westmoreland glass and hopes the volume will reach a wide range of glass enthusiasts. His quest for the history of the family's business having been satisfied, Wilson hopes the book will be as useful in 2050 as it is today, because, he says, "This is the first and the last book I ever plan to write."

Prejudice and Racism

By JAMES M. JONES '63
McGraw Hill, 1997

After 25 years the second edition of this lauded textbook has been released, with numerous additions and refinements by the author. Written from an academic viewpoint, but in an engaging and personal manner, this edition is designed for undergraduate or high-school classes which discuss race relations and the progression of social structure in the United States. Jones attempts to provide evidence that the problems we face are real, and reviews promising pathways toward change. Jones is entering his 15th year as professor of social psychology at the University of Delaware and is working on a new book, *Cultural Psychology of African Americans*.

Facts About the Congress

By STEPHEN G. CHRISTIANSON '84
H.W. Wilson, 1996

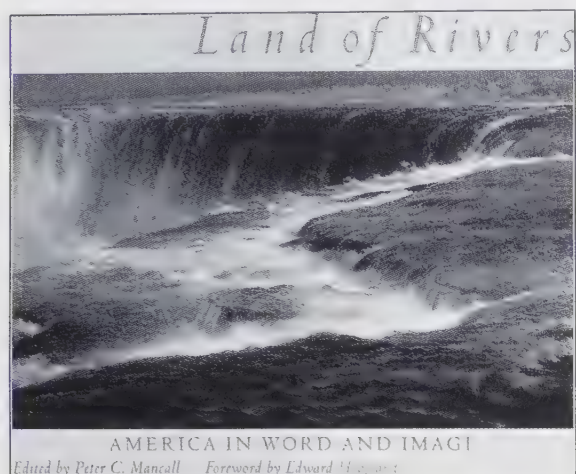
The first comprehensive history of the United States Congress from its inception in 1789 to the present, Christianson's book is a 700-page reference guide to the structure and personalities of the central power of our nation, including its leadership, significant issues, key votes, and impeachments. Christianson, an attorney and legal researcher, lives in Fairfax, Virginia.

Romanticism and the Anglican Newman

By DAVID GOSLEE '62
The Press at Scott Quadrangle, 1996

Although deemed insignificant by most scholars, Cardinal John Henry Newman's Anglican writings reinterpreted Romantic transcendence and serve as a link between secular and sacred Victorian culture, argues the author. Goslee first describes Newman's early renunciation of modern thought,

then reflects on the dialogic Romanticism in Newman's work, and finishes by examining how Newman's dialogue with God collapses under the burden of its own success. Goslee is the author of *Tennyson's Characters: "Strange Faces, Other Minds,"* and numerous literary articles.



Land of Rivers

EDITED BY PETER MANCALL '81
Cornell University Press, 1996

Gushing forth from the premise that "America has always been a land of rivers," the book leads the reader on a journey through the history and culture of America's rivers. Their beauty and diversity are reflected in the collection of photographs and illustrations, while songs, historical descriptions, and excerpts from the writings of prominent Americans past and present accentuate this meditation on American rivers. Mancall, the author of *Deadly Medicine: Indians and Alcohol in Early America* and *Valley of Opportunity: Economic Culture along the Upper Susquehanna*, teaches history at the University of Kansas.

Lesbianism Made Easy

BY HELEN EISENBACH '79
Crown Publishers, Inc., 1996

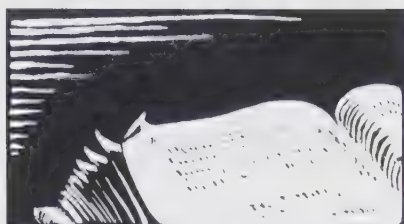
In this farcical look at the world of lesbianism, Eisenbach has created an all-encompassing tongue-in-cheek guide to life as a lesbian. Claiming to help smooth the potentially difficult situations of would-be daughters of Sappho, the author pulls no punches in both satirizing and applauding lesbian sexuality and lifestyles. Eisenbach recently directed her play *Lesbian Bathhouse* off-Broadway and is author of an earlier novel, *Loonglow*.

The Dimensional Structure of Consciousness:

A Physical Basis for Immaterialism

BY SAMUEL AVERY '71
Compari, 1995

Writing for the layperson as well as the professional, the author argues that while science is the



great power of western civilization, "further progress of science depends upon a transcendence of the material world." Avery states that physics is simply a manifestation of life, and believes that there is a scientific basis for immaterialism. By melding theoretical physics and everyday experience, he supports the claim that science can explain the realities of special relativity only by taking great exception to the external, material world we live in. Avery lives with his family on a farm in Hart County, Kentucky.

Walking Wounded

BY ROBERT DEVEREAUX '69
Dell Publishing, 1996

Although marketed as horror, *Walking Wounded* is more accurately described as psychological suspense. In this, his second novel, Devereaux introduces Katt, a mother and wife who develops magical healing powers that conversely awaken an ability to harm at will. In the supernatural world she inhabits, Katt is drawn into a tangled web of choices that lead her toward a deadly end. Devereaux, a Colorado writer and software engineer, has been applauded for accurately portraying a twisted woman's psyche in both *Walking Wounded* and *Deadweight*, his first novel.

New York Criminal Law

EDITED BY RICHARD A. GREENBERG '66
West Publishing Co., 1996

A recent addition to West's New York Practice Series and intended for the practicing lawyer, this single volume reference edition fully analyzes every article of the New York Penal Law, including its legislative history and interpretive case law. Richard A. Greenberg is a partner in Newman & Schwartz, New York City, and has specialized in criminal law for 25 years.

Ten-Second Rainshowers: Poems by Young People

COMPILED BY SANFORD LYNE '68
Simon and Schuster Books
for Young Readers, 1996

Having made a career as a visiting poet-in-the-schools at all levels of primary education, Lyne has gathered 130 of his favourite poems by children ages 8 to 18 in this warm and emotional look at the formation of individual minds. Exploring school, family, challenges, the soul, love, and death, the poems expose the simplicity and beauty of youthful exuberance and pensiveness. All of the poems were written as in-class work with Lyne or as short

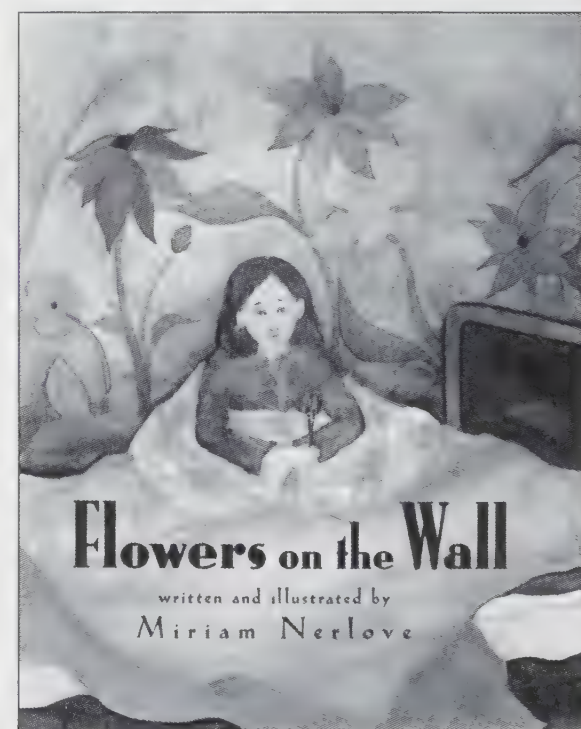
homework assignments. Lyne lives in Maryland with his wife, Patricia, and writes and teaches poetry as a facilitator of the John F. Kennedy Center's Arts-in-Education workshops.

First Impressions:

Frank Lloyd Wright

BY SUSAN GOLDMAN RUBIN '59
Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1994

Selected as one of the "Books for the Teen Age 1996" by the New York Public Librarians, this volume, describing Wright's controversial and brilliant life, is one in a series on famous artists. Shown in his roles as teacher, husband, art critic and, of course, architect, Wright comes alive through the text and accompanying photographs. Rubin traces his life from a determined childhood and dominating mother to his final great design, the never-built Mile High skyscraper. Rubin, a writer and illustrator in Los Angeles, has numerous children's books soon to be released, including a sequel to her novel for middle-grade readers *Emily Good as Gold*.



Flowers on the Wall

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
MIRIAM NERLOVE '79
Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1996

Giving a new perspective to the rise of anti-Semitism in the late 1930s, this children's book touchingly portrays the shattered lives of Warsaw Jews through the eyes of a young girl. Provided with paints and brushes, young Rachel transforms a bleak basement apartment into a comforting place of hope, only to leave it behind when the family is moved to the Warsaw ghetto, and finally to Treblinka. Nerlove has written and illustrated over a dozen children's books, including *I Made A Mistake* and *Just One Tooth*.

LETTERS, *continued from page 3*

know him both as a teacher and as a friend. As a PhD candidate and instructor I hope to keep the spirit of Professor McGill alive for many generations to come.

BILL BETTLER '90
West Lafayette, Indiana

My first memory of Professor Barry McGill is of arguing with him in his hot stuffy office, a heaping pile of his cigarette butts in the glass ashtray between us. I was an upset freshman, angry because he refused to give me any credits for an Advanced Placement Exam in modern European history on which I had earned the highest possible score. He was requiring me to take his introductory class because he disagreed with some things I had written about the Renaissance. He said my responses might be good enough for the A.P. graders, but not good enough for Barry McGill.

So, indignantly, I took his introductory European history class and, chagrined, realized that he was right. I wound up taking class after class with him, and eventually asked him to be my honors advisor. I have never regretted a moment in one of his classes, not even the mandatory ones held the day after Thanksgiving.

A genuine historian, Barry McGill lived and loved the past. He would speak of Queen Elizabeth I with an energy and passion that brought her alive for us. He was tough, with a sharp wit that never allowed you to let down your guard around him. He was constantly sparring and challenging. But he was also tender and truly loved his field and his students, an academic who genuinely cared that history was learned, and learned well enough for Barry McGill. Farewell to a true scholar and excellent man.

ERICA T. DUBNO '89
Brooklyn, New York

In Memoriam: David Anderson

I was sad to read of the death of Emeritus Professor of Physics David Anderson ["Losses in the Oberlin Family," Summer 1996 *OAM*]. Freshman year I enrolled in his basic astronomy class. A confirmed humanist, I was resistant to and ignorant of the impact of sciences on my own life. David changed that with his plain-spoken explanations and his old-style presentation. I sat in the back determined to learn nothing, and instead gained respect for foreign ideas.

In 1988 I was on campus for political organizing, and I was in need of some companionship. I attended David's church, and



enjoyed a meal at his house—which was jammed with scientific, academic, and other memorabilia. I needed a respectable car, I informed the Andersons, for my assignment of collecting the Democratic presidential candidate's daughter and bringing her to Oberlin for a campaign event. They happily complied with their very respectable tan Buick Century.

David made me realize that the sciences are mind expanding and that their discoveries are as exciting as a unknown Shakespeare sonnet.

David Anderson was generous, passionate, and unapologetic; I will always value his teaching and his humanism.

PATRICK HEWES '87
Seattle, Washington

Goodbye, Soul Mate

Editor's note: *The following letter is a tribute to Miyako Matsuki '59, whose obituary appears in this issue's "Losses in the Oberlin Family" section.*

Miyako Matsuki and I met at Gettysburg College when she arrived in 1994 to teach in the religion department. I had joined the music department just two years earlier. Even though we attended Oberlin at different times, we experienced many of the same things and spoke about them together often.

As Miyako and I came to know each other better, I was amazed as she revealed her personal story. She came to the United States to complete her final year of high school in Cleveland, and she ended up remaining to attend Oberlin on a full scholarship. She told how her education changed her, providing independence from her traditional Japanese upbringing. When she married an American—an Oberlin classmate—her father disowned her. She did not return to Japan until 20 years later.

Miyako and I became even closer during a January 1995 faculty study trip to Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. I remember how tough she was on that trip, and how much of a stoic she remained through a serious stomach upset and an ankle sprain. And she was fun, too, as she became excited about each new thing that we saw and experienced. When I would practice voice, Miyako would listen with obvious enjoyment, even to the warm-up exercises. No matter how busy she was, she attended concerts in which I played

the flute, sang, or conducted. She was a constant and quiet supporter.

Last summer, Miyako and I took her daughter, Sumiko, who had studied flute, to hear flutist James Galway perform with the Baltimore Symphony. We had dinner before the concert with Bonnie Lake '52, longtime flutist with the orchestra and my flute teacher at the Peabody Preparatory School. Miyako was thrilled to be able to take Sumiko to that concert, as thrilled as she when they traveled to Japan for the first time later that same summer. Miyako loved her three children and gave them all that she had and could throughout her life, in spite of many personal and family difficulties. In return, they encouraged and supported her educational and career goals up until her death. They wanted her to complete her doctorate, perhaps even more than she wanted to do so herself.

Last spring my daughter, Eugenia, a writer and newspaper reporter, wrote a story for the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* about how Miyako and I found ourselves as junior faculty members at Gettysburg College at the same time ["Learning and Labor Creates Soul Mates," Summer 1996 *OAM*]. We were both older than typical junior faculty and were completing doctoral dissertations while teaching full loads at less-than-traditional times in our lives. An interesting story angle. Miyako was excited about the project, probably more so than I. When the story was published, I read what we had said about the connection between us: "When you run into an Oberlin person, no matter in what field, you find an instant soul mate. We were glad to discover each other," and "Every time a controversial issue erupts on campus, Miyako says she finds Sharon right beside her, protesting injustice in true Oberlin style."

Miyako continued to teach, to write, and to attend to the needs of those around her right up until the end of her life. Her death came too soon. There is no question that many people will join me in missing her brilliant mind and devoted friendship. I am grateful for the short time that we had together. I only wish I had been able to say good-bye to Miyako, my special Oberlin and Gettysburg friend and soul mate, in person.

SHARON DAVIS GRATTO '66
Falls Church, Virginia

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One More Thing



The next time you find yourself in the vicinity of the National Cathedral, stop in at St. Albans Church just next door, and view this soaring stained glass window celebrating the life

of Antoinette Brown Blackwell, who graduated from the Oberlin Collegiate

Institute in 1847 and from the Theological Department in 1851.

Brown was the first woman ordained in the United States (1853) in the Protestant ministry, only two years after she completed her Oberlin studies. Her passionate conviction that women had a right—and an obligation—to speak out in public led her to the pulpit. After her marriage to Samuel Blackwell in 1854, she continued her break with the traditional role of women of that period, and while raising five daughters, she main-



tained a high profile in the American Women Suffrage Association; the Women's Anti-Slavery Society; the Women's Christian Temperance Union; the Women's Political Union;

the New England Women's Club; the International Council of Women; the Association for the Advancement of Women; and a number of regional feminist-rights groups, all organized to give women a meaningful role in their own and in their public lives.

Artist Brenda Belfield, responsible for more than 60 of the National Cathedral's stained-glass windows, designed and executed the Brown Blackwell window, dedicated in September 1995.

Coming Soon: An Alumni Event Near You

Amsterdam, Holland *

May 10 Dinner and reception for alumni in The Netherlands and those participating in the waterways cruise

Boston

May 3 Shansi reunion for India reps
Summer Community-service day

Cleveland

May 2 Cleveland Indians baseball game and picnic
May 3 Community-service day

Columbus, Ohio

April 20 Reception and talk by Associate Professor of Biology Roger Laushman

Hong Kong

April 24 Alumni meeting with Harry Dawe '58

Lexington, Ky.

April 20 Performance of *Suburbia* by Eric Bogosian '76

Lorain County, Ohio

Summer Jack Schaefer '29 Roundup

Oberlin

May 23 Heisman Hall of Fame induction
May 23-26 Commencement-Reunion weekend

Weekend trips, departing from Oberlin

June 3-4 Tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water and Kentuck Nob, escorted by museum preparator Michael Holubar and art educator Palli Davis
July 30- Ontario's Stratford Festival, escorted by
Aug. 1 Associate Professor of Theater Jane Armitage
Sept. 9-10 Niagara-on-the-Lake's Shaw Festival, escorted by Professor of English Dewey Ganzel

Pittsburgh

May 9 Alumni reception with President Nancy S. Dye

Philadelphia

May 3 Community-service day

Washington, D.C.

April 26 Concert and reception in Great Falls
May Poetry writing workshop
June Annual picnic

Westchester/S. Connecticut

April 13 Reception for admitted students
August 15 Performance by Conservatory of Music group, the Miro Quartet

This schedule does not include all upcoming events, and dates may be subject to change.

For further information contact:

Oberlin College Alumni Association, Bosworth 105, 50 W. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074-1089. Phone (216) 775-8692 URL: <http://www.oberlin.edu/~alumasc>

E-mail: alumoffc@ais.alumdev.oberlin.edu

* For information about the Amsterdam reception, contact:

Lisa Marcus '79, Phone: 020-683-6613.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SHERLOCK



Mudd library in the spring. Can Commencement be far away?

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MARJORIE E. WISEMAN
Allen Art Museum
Allen Art Museum